

Minot's Annual Election and Annual Town Meeting

February 28 and March 1, 2025

Friday, February 28, 2025

Town Clerk and Voter Registrar Sara Farris arrived at the Town Office at 3:00 pm to allow for voter registration. No residents arrived to register.

Residents present at 3:45pm: Stephen French, Bernice Fraser, Rene Fraser, Dean Campbell, Sharon Campbell, Lisa Cesare, Susan Trundy, Thomas Hoffman, and Sara Farris

Town Clerk Sara Farris read the Greetings.

"Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Minot, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Minot Town Office, in said Town on Friday, February 28, 2025 at three forty-five o'clock (3:45) in the afternoon, then and there to act upon Article 1 by secret ballot and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set below, the polling hours therefore to be from four o'clock (4) in the afternoon until eight o'clock (8) in the evening. The Registrar will be in session at the Minot Town Office at three o'clock (3) in the afternoon, of said meeting day for the purpose of correcting the list of voters.

And to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Minot Consolidated School, in said Town on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at nine (9) o'clock in the morning, The Registrar will be in session at the Minot Consolidated School, Minot at eight (8) o'clock in the morning on Saturday, March 1, 2025, of said meeting day for the purpose of correcting the list of voters. Said inhabitants to meet then and there to act on Article 3 through the completion of the Warrant as legally posted, to wit"

1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting and to give him/her power to appoint ballot clerks.

Sharon Campbell made the motion to nominate Lisa Cesare to serve as Moderator.

Seconded by Stephen French.

There were no other nominations.

All residents present unanimously voted Lisa Cesare as Moderator with 9 votes.

Sara Farris Swore in Lisa Cesare as Moderator.

Lisa Cesare then swore in Susan Trundy and Thomas Hoffman as Election Clerks.

The Moderator opened the Polls for voting on Article 2 at 4:00pm.

2. To elect two (2) Selectmen for a term of three years and two (2) members of the Superintending School Committee for a three-year term.

Voting occurred at the Minot Town Office from 4pm to 8pm.

The Moderator recessed the Town Election at 8:00 pm until Saturday March 1, 2025 at 9:00 am. All the votes were counted, and the results were as follows:

TOTAL VOTES CAST: 44

Results:

2 Selectmen for a 3-year term

DANIEL GILPATRIC - 38

DEAN CAMPBELL – 40

Other votes:

Daniel French - 1

2 RSU 16 School Board Member for a 3- year term

SARAH ROBINSON - 40

STEPHEN HOLBROOK – 38

Other votes:

Whitney King-Buker – 1

Alexandra French – 1

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Town Clerk Sara Farris swore in Candace Gilpatric and Constance Benwitz as Election Clerks to check in residents as they arrived.

Alexandria Richardson and Jordan De Vito served as Voter Registrars. There were no new voter registrations completed.

Voter check-in and registration started at 8 am.

Staff Present:

Administrator Danielle Loring

Town Clerk Sara Farris

Deputy Clerk Alexandria Richardson

Deputy Clerk Jordan De Vito

Selectmen Chair Daniel Gilpatric

Vice Chair Lisa Cesare

Matthew Callahan

Dean Campbell

Brittany Hemond

Outgoing Selectmen William Perry

Fire Chief Jeffrey Burt

Planning Board: Chair James Brown, Vice Chair Kerry Bonney, William Wallace, Michael Theriault, and Alternate Matthew LeClair

Budget Committee: George Buker, Matthew LeClair, Lisa Bonney, and Susan Spencer

In total 52 residents/ registered voters were present.

The Annual Town Meeting started at 9 am with Moderator Lisa Cesare leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lisa Cesare appointed Randall Greenwood as Deputy Moderator and swore him in.

Randall Greenwood swore in his 2 tellers, Jordan De Vito and Alexandria Richardson.

Mr. Greenwood introduced himself to the assembly.

Mr. Greenwood announced the results of the February 28, 2025 Town Election.

Daniel Gilpatric and Dean Campbell were present and were sworn into office as Selectmen for a 3-year term.

Sarah Robinson was present and was sworn into office as an RSU 16 School Board Member for a 3-year term. Stephen Holbrook was not present.

Town Report Dedication

None

Spirit of America Award – Matthew Manson

Brittany Hemond presented the Spirit of America Award to Matthew Manson, the owner of Blackie's Farm Fresh Produce, for his generosity to the residents of Minot.

The Moderator called for a motion to allow all non-residents present to be able to speak on town affairs.

Matthew Callahan made the motion for all non-residents to be allowed to speak.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards all non-residents were allowed to speak on town affairs.

Town Report Corrections

Mr. Greenwood stated that articles 6 - 9 in the Town Report should show “no opinion” as the Selectmen recommendation.

3. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to accept the Town Report as amended.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

4. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to elect Daniel Gilpatric as an Assessor for a three (3) year term.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

5. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote accept the salaries as set below.

Selectmen	\$1,500.00 each
Chairman of Selectmen	\$ 500.00
Three Assessors	\$ 50.00 each
Chairman of Overseer of Poor	\$ n/a

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

Moderator Randall Greenwood mentioned to the assembly that the proposed ordinance changes are appended in the Town Report following the Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

6. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to adopt amendments to Chapter 4 by creating Section 501.20 Warehousing/Wholesale standards of the Land Use Code of the Town of Minot as adopted March 4, 2006 and amended through March 2, 2024, by adding the underlined language.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

Candace Gilpatric thanked the Planning Board for their hard work on the ordinances that were presented but she questioned AVCOGs help in drafting them as she found numerous errors. Regarding Article 6 she noted that:

- There were no definitions provided for terms Warehouse and Wholesale.

- She believes that more of an explanation for the term flammable should be included because a lot of different items are considered flammable including hay and agriculture products.
- Why are Warehouses and Wholesale only allowed in the General Development and Village Districts? As shown in the ordinance, if structures must be 1,000 ft from a dwelling that could be hard to meet since these 2 Districts are the smallest.

James Brown, the Planning Board Chair, stated that Mrs. Gilpatric did have some good input and asked why she did not attend the Public Hearing held on the proposed ordinances. Mr. Brown continued that the intent of the ordinance was only to apply to commercial warehouses and not agriculture. Village and General Development District are the only 2 districts that allow for large commerce so that is why they were chosen. Mr. Brown agreed with Mrs. Gilpatric that the ordinance as presented could use some fine tuning and presented again at next year's Town Meeting.

Sharon Campbell stated that she did not see any provision for fire protection and suppression in the ordinance. She agreed that the ordinance should be revamped and presented at next year's meeting.

James Brown posed the question, what would be the possible downside and implications if they went another year with no ordinance in place and more of these types of buildings started being constructed in town with no provisions. Mr. Brown suggested passing the ordinance as is and using the ideas from today's Meeting to rework it and present at next year's meeting.

Sharon Campbell asked if presenting the ordinance at the June Referendum would be an option. Clerk Sara Farris stated that it could be possible, but she would have to look at the actual timeline. George Buker stated that he believes the ordinance would have a better chance at passing if presented at next year's meeting.

Candace Gilpatric stated that she believes the Planning Board has provisions to approve or deny applications on a site-by-site basis.

By a show of orange cards, the motion failed.

7. Matthew Callahan moved the town vote to adopt amendments to Chapter 4 by creating Section 501.21 Event Venue standards of the Land Use Code of the Town of Minot as adopted March 3, 2006 and amended through March 2, 2024, by adding the underlined language type as shown.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

Candace Gilpatric stated that there is no definition for event venue listed in the ordinance and she asked why was parking being monitored. The parking stipulations could hurt local groups and businesses.

James Brown stated that the term event venue was intended to mean buildings constructed for the purpose of holding events, specifically wedding barns, as there is a lot of interest in them. He added that the intent of the ordinance was to be specific as to what type of

events were included. The parking aspect was added to limit roadside parking specifically to avoid congestion.

Lisa Cesare requested clarification that this would not affect businesses that are already in operation. Mr. Brown answered that that was the intent.

Mrs. Gilpatric stated that a definition needs to be added for future use and clarity of the ordinance.

Mr. Brown asked if accepting the ordinance with conditions was an option and George Buker stated that what really matters is how the ordinance is written not what is said at Town Meeting.

By a show of orange cards, the motion failed.

8. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to adopt amendments to Chapter 4 by creating Section 501.22 Small Engine Repair standards of the Land Use Code of the Town of Minot as adopted March 3, 2006 and amended through March 2, 2024, by adding the underlined language type as shown.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

Candace Gilpatric stated that she appreciated the included definitions, but she still found some issues with the ordinance as presented.

- Are home occupations included in this ordinance?
- Why is the ordinance limited to certain Districts?
- If flammable items are a concern why just target small engine repair and not other trades with flammable products like painters?

Dean Campbell stated that the flammable storage concern came from a case that involved the Planning Board and a small engine shop. William Perry asked if Fire Chief Burt could speak on the issue. Chief Burt stated that the flammable storage provision ensures that OSHA and safety codes are followed and helps to maintain compliance throughout all small engine repair shops.

A resident asked why 5 parking spaces per bay was chosen. James Brown answered that the number was recommended by AVCOG.

Candace Gilpatric asked why the 2 Districts were chosen. Mr. Brown answered that the ordinance was intended to apply to large commerce, which is allowed in Village and General Development Districts, and not to affect work done at home by individuals.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes. **

** *see the following minutes. Motion was amended and ultimately failed on page 7.*

9. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to adopt administrative amendments to the Land Use Code of the Town of Minot as adopted March 3, 2006 and amended through March 2, 2024, by adding the underlined language and deleting the striked out language type as shown.

Second by Lisa Cesare.

George Buker stated that the Land Use Code changes could not be adopted as some of the changes are relevant to articles 6 & 7 that failed.

Candace Gilpatric would like to see the Town and the Planning Board be unified regarding the term Selectmen or Selectboard.

Sharon Campbell stated that the dates of when the Land Use Code was adopted are inconsistent throughout articles 6-9. Brittany Hemond stated that the Land Use Code was originally adopted March 4, 2006 as shown in article 6 but shows March 3, 2006 in articles 7-9.

Dean Campbell stated that the changes that were associated with the previous failed articles would not be included when the Land Use Code is updated.

Moderator Randall Greenwood requested a quick recess for clarification with Danielle Loring. Danielle asked Selectmen Lisa Cesare to join them. After the recess and discussion, it was determined that article 9 must be voted down due to the incorrect date and that article 8 must be reconsidered and voted down as well.

By a show of orange cards, the motion regarding article 9 failed.

** RECONSIDERED 8. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to reconsider article 8 due to the incorrect date listed in the article.

Second by Lisa Cesare.

By a show of orange cards, article 8 was reconsidered.

Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to not adopt article 8 due to the clerical error regarding the original adoption date of the Land Use Code.

Second by William Perry

There was some discussion as to the validity of a negative motion and the Moderator approved the process.

By a show of orange cards, the reconsidered motion for article 8 failed.

10. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to carry forward the unexpended balances in the following Reserve Accounts and to authorize the Selectmen to expend funds from these Reserve Accounts for the purposes for which they were established:

Town Office Equipment Reserve Account, balance of \$73.03

Highway Capital Equipment Reserve Account, balance of \$2,112.77

Paving & Road Improvement Reserve, balance \$104,165.18

General Assistance Donation (Eda's Elf Fund) Reserve Account, balance of \$7,601.86

Town Well Reserve Account, balance of \$10,627.66

Cemetery Reserve Account, balance of \$1,867.55

Minot Community Events Reserve, balance of \$898.48

Fire Department Apparatus Reserve, balance of \$295.58

Fire Department Grant Reserve, balance of \$7,077.92

Fire Department Capital Equipment Reserve, balance of \$929.19

Conservation Committee Reserve, balance of \$100.00

Recreational Field Maintenance Reserve, balance of \$4,800.52

RSU 16 Assessment Reserve, balance of \$86,994.00

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

11. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint and set salaries for any necessary Town Officials that are not elected); and raise and appropriate \$473,120.00 for Town Salaries and Benefits.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

12. Matthew Callahan moved the Town raise and appropriate \$42,800.00 for Town Office Maintenance and Supplies.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

13. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$43,850.00 for Interdepartment & IT Services for the ensuing year.

Mileage Reimbursement

Contract services (payroll, tax billing, trash removal...etc.)

Advertising

Deed and Lien services

Annual Software Licensing

Hardware Upgrades

Network Security

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

14. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$127,750.00.00 for Operating Costs of the Town Garage and Equipment Repair.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

15. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to appropriate \$410,000.00, raise \$334,804.00 and use \$75,196.00 from LRAP for paving and patching roads.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes

16. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$397,100.00 for Winter Roads for the ensuing year.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

17. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$352,000.00 for the Maintenance of Common Roads, Culverts, Bridges and Bushes for the ensuing year.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

Sharon Campbell requested an explanation regarding the increase. Danielle Loring replied that Marston Hill Road is due to be paved this year and will need 2 - 6ft culverts replaced and 5 sections of the road will have to be reclaimed. This job will also require a large excavator to be rented for a longer period of time.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

18. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$272,620.00 for the Minot Municipal Fire Department including the Rescue Division for the ensuing year.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

19. Moderator Randall Greenwood noted the difference between the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendations regarding article article 19.

The Selectmen recommend \$20,000.00

The Budget Committee recommends \$20,000.00 annually for 5 years

Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$ 20,000.00 for the creation of a Fire Department Apparatus Reserve.

Second by Matthew Callahan.

Sharon Campbell questioned if this article was meant to add to the current Fire Department Apparatus Reserve instead of creating another reserve account. There was some confusion, and the Moderator requested that Mrs. Cesare restate her motion, and she did so as shown above.

Lisa Cesare stated that she would like to withdraw her motion as a Fire Department Apparatus Reserve already exists. Matthew Callahan withdrew his second.

Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$ 20,000.00 to add to the existing Fire Department Apparatus Reserve.

Second by Matthew Callahan.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

George Buker stated that at the Budget Meetings he was under the impression that the \$ 20,000.00 was intended to purchase a forestry truck and not be placed in an Apparatus Reserve. Matthew Callahan responded that that was the intent and placing the funds in the reserve will allow Chief Burt to use them when the right vehicle is available. He added that the Selectmen appreciated and supported the Budget Committee's idea but did not want to place at \$ 100,000.00 in the budget at this time.

20. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$70,840.00 for Principal Payments and Interest.

Second by Matthew Callahan.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

21. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$28,400.00 for Contract Assessing & GIS Services.

Second by Matthew Callahan.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

22. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$57,150.00 for the Code Enforcement and Planning for the ensuing year.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

23. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$8,650.00 for the Annual Audit of the Town books and officer's accounts.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

24. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for Legal Fees for the ensuing year.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

25. Moderator Randall Greenwood noted the difference between the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendations regarding article 25.

The Selectmen recommend \$ 412,703.00

The Budget Committee recommend paying the bill as provided by Androscoggin County

Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$412,703.00 for the County Tax set by Androscoggin County.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

26. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$65,100.00 for Solid Waste Disposal & Contract Services.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

27. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000.00 for Street Lights.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

Candace Gilpatric stated that \$ 3,200.00 was expended last year for street lights and asked why not raise the budget line. Danielle replied that she is working with Central Maine Power to reduce the amount.

A resident asked how many street lights are in Town and Danielle Loring answered there are 15.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

28. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$23,454.00 for Municipal Organizations and Contracts.

Maine Municipal Association (MMA)	\$4,000
Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG)	\$4,460
Greater Androscoggin Humane Society (GAHS)	\$4,100
TRIO	\$10,894

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

29. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$64,600.00 for Town Insurance.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

30. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$22,500.00 for Library Services with the Auburn Public Library.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

Donna Wallace, a Minot resident and the interim director at Auburn Public Library, stated that the library has evolved to more than just books and that they host various events for library members and the public to attend. She also added that the library is at the Minot Town Office on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 4-6 pm and that residents can request books for them to bring. There are currently 345 Minot residents with active library cards.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

31. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$4,850.00 for the Animal Control Officer.

Second by Matthew Callahan.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

32. Brittany Hemond moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for General Assistance (Health and Welfare).

Second by Matthew Callahan.

Sharon Campbell asked why is the budget for only \$ 2,000.00 when about \$ 4,200.00 was expended. Danielle responded that the Town is reimbursed 70% by the State and there is legislature that could move that to 90%.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

33. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to donate the Snowmobile Registration Refund in the amount of \$ 1,072.44 to the Minot Moonshiners Snowmobile Club for trail maintenance.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

34. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$12,000.00 for Elections and Annual Town Meeting.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

George Buker stated that Town staff uses \$ 400.00, as shown in his Budget Committee worksheets, to go out to eat after Town Meeting. Clerk Sara Farris responded that his statement was incorrect and the \$ 400.00 is used for supper at the elections throughout the year usually consisting of a subway platter, chips, and drinks.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

35. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the funding care and maintenance of Minot's Cemeteries.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

36. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for the funding Recreational Field Maintenance.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

Candace Gilpatric asked for clarification that the Recreation Field Maintenance Reserve Account can also be used and Danielle Loring answered that it can.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

37. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$0.00 to be donated to Charitable Organizations.

Requests:

LifeFlight	\$ 691.00
SafeVoices	\$ unspecified
Seniors Plus	\$ 500.00
Maine Public	\$ 100.00
TOTAL:	\$ 1,291.00

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

38. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to join the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS) as a Participating Local District effective January 1, 2026 , and:

- a) To offer Special Plan 3C to its full-time firefighters who are not seasonal or temporary and to its fire chief, effective January 1, 2026; and
- b) To exclude all other employees, including part-time, seasonal and temporary firefighters and all other elected/appointed officials from participating in the MainePERS defined benefit plan; and
- c) To allow eligible employees who opt to participate in MainePERS the option to purchase prior service for employment with Town upon the employee's full payment of all associated costs. The Town will not participate in the purchase of prior service and so an employee who wishes to purchase prior service is responsible for paying the full liability associated with this service; and
- d) To adopt the provisions of 5 M.R.S. §18252-C as enacted by PL 2021, Chapter 286 as allowed by MainePERS Rule Chapter 803 for its non-participating employees with optional membership who previously declined to participate in MainePERS ("eligible employees") and to comply with the following requirements:
 - i. Beginning in 2025, to annually offer eligible employees who have been employed for less than 5 years the opportunity to join MainePERS on a prospective basis during an open enrollment period from September 1st through November 1st and to provide MainePERS with documentation of each election made by eligible employees under this provision; and

- ii. To calculate employee contributions against gross compensation as with other participating employees and then withhold and report employee contributions for employees who join under this provision on an after-tax basis and remit them to MainePERS (i.e., employee contributions for those who join under this provision are subject to both federal and state income tax); and
- e) To authorize its Town Administrator to enter into an agreement with MainePERS to adopt a 457 and/or 401(a) defined contribution plan through the MaineStart program in addition to the defined benefit plan at any time. There is no additional administrative cost to the Town to do this and it will give all Town employees an additional way to save for retirement; and
- f) To authorize the Town Administrator to sign the defined benefit plan agreement, and any future defined contribution plan agreement between the Town of Minot and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Second by William Perry.

Sharon Campbell asked for clarification on the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MEPERS). Danielle explained the article verbiage and added that MEPERS was a program that eligible candidates were requesting when they were interviewing for the full time Fire Chief position. Because of that, the Selectmen felt that it was necessary to attract and keep high quality candidates. She added that the effective date is January 1, 2026 because current staff will have to be move to a different retirement plan because the Town can not have a 401-K and MEPERS

George Buker voiced concern that there was already \$ 8,000.00 in the account and that this could be available to all town employees, including volunteer and part-time. Danielle Loring responded that part B of the article is very specific as to who is not eligible, and the article was written in compliance with Maine law.

George Buker asked why all other full-time employees are not eligible. Danielle responded that offering MEPERS to all full-time employees an employee by back would have the be calculated for and considered by each employee. She added that the \$ 8,000.00 is in a reserve account to assist Chief Burt with the Town's portion of his buy back for the year he has missed.

William Perry introduced himself as a prior Selectmen and a part of the interview committee for the full time Fire Chief position. He stated that \$ 8,000.00 is a small amount to attract and keep quality people.

Fire Chief Jeffrey Burt stated that it is very common for public safety officials to be enrolled in the MEPERS program. It is said that firefighting takes about 10 years off your life due to the hazardous nature of the job. Chief Burt added that the call volume is up about 140% from last year and Minot receives about 400 calls each year.

George Buker asked what the current 401-K match for the town is. Danielle Loring replied it is a 3% match for staff on the current plan.

Mr. Buker asked why the Budget Committee never saw this article. Danielle Loring replied that the article was discussed at the Budget Committee Meetings as to whether it would be included or not, but the article is more of an administrative change and not a budget item. The verbiage was provided from the State at the last minute and there was no time to bring it to the Budget Committee.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

39. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to accept the categories of funds listed here as provided by the Maine State Legislature (Categories), and further authorize the Town to expend any such funds (Selectmen so recommend): American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds; Municipal Revenue Sharing; Local Roads Assistance Program; State Aid to Education; Public Library Aid Per Capita; Civil Emergency (FEMA) Funds; Snowmobile Registration Money; Tree Growth Reimbursement; General Assistance Reimbursement; Veteran's Exemption and Homestead Exemption Reimbursement; and State and Federal Grants or other funds.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

40. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to establish a due date of December 15th, 2025 for payment for the 2025 property taxes with interest charged thereafter at the State maximum rate of 7.5 %.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

41. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to set a rate of 4 percentage points less than the delinquent rate as allowed by State law for overpayments resulting from abatements not prepayment of taxes.

Second by William Perry.

George Buker wanted clarification that interest was not accruing on property tax prepayments. Danielle Loring replied that interest was only applied to accounts with overpayments due to abatements.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

42. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to give the Selectmen the authority to use whatever sum they deem advisable from surplus to lower the 2025 tax rate.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

43. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to give the Selectmen the authority to estimate the Excise Tax Revenue and use the same to lower the 2025 tax rate.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

44. Lisa Cesare moved the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to spend an amount not to exceed 25% of the budgeted amount in each category of the 2026 annual budget during the period of January 1, 2026 through the 2026 Annual Town Meeting.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

45. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to authorize the Tax Collector to collect interest and costs before applying funds to the principal of the oldest outstanding tax assessment.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

46. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to overdraft accounts with uncontrollable expenditures when necessary and such overdraft will come out of the Undesignated Fund Balance.

Second by William Perry.

Stephen French stated that he will vote to support the article but would like to see the Selectmen consider including an article to approve any overdrafts moving forward as the current process bypasses the Budget Committee and Town Meeting.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

47. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and in the best interest of the Town and execute quitclaim deeds without covenant for any such property. Except that the Selectmen shall use the special sale process required by Title 36 MRS § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s).

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

48. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to procure a temporary loan or loans in anticipation of taxes, for the purpose of paying obligations of the Town, such loan or loans to be paid during the ensuing year out of money raised during the ensuing year by taxes.

Second by William Perry.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

49. Matthew Callahan moved the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen and Town Treasurer to sell and assign unmatured tax liens for not less than the unpaid interest and costs.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the motion passes.

Moderator Randall Greenwood asked for any other comments before the meeting was adjourned. George Buker stated there was an increase of \$ 395,000.00 in the budget and asked residents to consider this combined with the upcoming RSU 16 School Budget increase. Matthew Callahan responded that the Town's calculations show an increase of \$ 195,457.00, about 8.66%. There was some other various discussion regarding the topic, but it was decided that Mr. Buker could reach out to the Board to discuss further after the meeting.

William Perry moved to adjourn Minot's Annual Town Meeting at 11:05 am.

Second by Sharon Campbell.

By a show of orange cards, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Attest:


Sara A. Farris, Town Clerk