



TOWN OF HARRISON

20 Front Street, PO Box 300, Harrison ME 04040

Public Notice

This public notice is being published at the direction of the Harrison Select Board.

On May 30, 2024, at a Special Select Board meeting, the Harrison Select Board signed the warrant and Notice of Election for the FY 25 MSAD17 budget validation referendum. This referendum vote will take place on June 11, 2024, at the Harrison Town Office from 8am - 8pm. Absentee ballots can also be attained by contacting the Town Clerk's Office. This vote will be the final chance to approve or turn down the proposed MSAD17's budget.

During this meeting, the Select Board discussed the proposed increase to the MSAD17 budget. If the proposed MSAD17 cost center budget passes with the additional encumbrances, the Town of Harrison's MSAD17 assessment will be \$4,772,514.48 over last year's \$3,836,213.00. That is a total increase equivalent to \$936,301.00 or 24.41%.

Given the unprecedented increase proposed by this year's MSAD17 budget, the Harrison Select Board voted to "not support" the MSAD17 budget. The Select Board recommends Harrison voters also consider "not supporting" the proposed MSAD17 budget by voting "NO" on June 11th.

To be clear, the Harrison Select Board supports the functions of MSAD17 and recognizes the importance of delivering quality education. Voting to "not support" the MSAD17 budget is not a statement against MSAD17. This vote is against the unprecedented MSAD17 budget increase. The Select Board simply asks that MSAD17 produce a more realistic, transparent, and fiscally responsible budget.

What happens if the MSAD17 budget is voted down? In the event the MSAD17 budget does not pass prior to July 1st, simply put, MSAD17 will continue to operate using last years approved budget until a final budget is approved. For reference see State of Maine, Title 20-A, §1487: "Failure to pass a budget":

www.legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec1487.html

On behalf of the Harrison Select Board, thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Very Respectfully,

Cass Newell
Harrison Town Manager