

**TOWN OF HARRISON**  
**Annual Town Meeting Minutes**  
**June 12, 2024**

Town Clerk, Kristen MacDonald, opened the annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 8:00 am, read the greeting to resident, Megan Friel and then called for the election of the Moderator.

**Article 1:** To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

**Motion made and seconded to elect Renee Joyce as Moderator, passed with support of 5 votes.**

Renee Joyce swore in Jason Moen as Deputy Moderator.

The polls closed at 8:00 pm.

The meeting reconvened on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Harrison Elementary School. 182 voters attended.

Article 2 and the results were read as follows:

**Article 2:** To Choose by secret ballot the following: (2) Selectboard/Assessors to serve for 3 years, (2) Planning Board member to serve for 3 years, (1) Appeals Board member for 5 years and (1) School Board Member to serve for 3 years.

**Selectmen/Assessor (2):**

<b>Devlin, Phil</b>	<b>236</b>
Fitzmorris, Alfred	189
<b>Kane, Debora</b>	<b>333</b>
Ross, Frederick	157

**Planning Board (2)**

<b>Dayton, James</b>	<b>363</b>
<b>Vane, Jennifer</b>	<b>390</b>

**Appeals Board (1)**

<b>Bingham, Stephen</b>	<b>423</b>
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**School Board (1)**

Write – Ins 28 (Fred Ross-winner/Mr. Ross declined in writing, remains vacant)

**SAD 17 Budget Validation Referendum:**

Question 1: **No 481** Yes 77

Deputy Moderator Jason Moen took over for Articles 3 – 40 and the results were as follows:

**Article 3:** To see if the voters will set the date when taxes shall be due and payable with the first bi-annual payment being due on September 16, 2024 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment due February 1, 2025 and an interest rate of 7% annum be charged on all unpaid taxes after these dates until those taxes are paid in full. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 4:** To see if the voters will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet due or assessed and pay interest at a rate of 0% on any overpayment. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to dispose of tax-acquired property as they deem in the best interests of the Town, except that the Municipal Officers shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S § 943-C if they choose to sell the property to anyone other than the former owner. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 6:** To see if the voters will authorize the Selectboard to dispose of Town owned property as they deem proper and return funds to reserve accounts associated with affected sales if applicable. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 7:** To see if the voters will authorize the Selectboard to carry balances forward, at the end of the fiscal year, as they deem to be advisable and for any funds not otherwise assigned by this meeting, in excess of the 16.5% required for the Undesignated Fund Balance, to the Capital & Reserve Account. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$6.62 out of the money received from the registration of snowmobiles the Harrison Friendly Riders Snowmobile Club for the purposes of maintaining their snowmobile trails, to open to the use of the public at all times, and to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the Municipal Officers may deem advisable, for that purpose. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 9:** To see if the voters will authorize the Selectboard to expend a sum not to exceed \$25,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to cover any unfunded emergencies that occur. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 10:** To see if the voters will authorize the Selectboard to transfer funds between accounts for the purposes of covering overdrafts. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 11:** To see if the voters will authorize the Treasurer to issue payments upon the signature of three (3) Selectmen on the Town Warrant and prior to the next scheduled Selectmen's meeting. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 12:** To see if the voters will authorize the Treasurer to accept gifts and financial donations to the Town. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 13:** To see if the voters will authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §944 upon a finding by the Board of Selectmen that ownership of the property subject to the lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of any tax abatements, including interest, approved by the Selectboard from the property tax overlay, or if necessary, from the unassigned fund balance. **Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 15:** Shall the Town vote to appropriate a sum of **\$902,600** from Revenue to reduce taxes.  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 16:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$794,690** for Administration.  
**Moved, seconded to amend the amount to \$735,847. Amendment was Approved.**

**Article 17:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$891,124** for the Public Works Department.  
**Motion was made to amend the amount to \$842,838. Motion Failed.**  
**Moved, seconded for original amount \$891,124. Approved.**

**Article 18:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$195,497** for the Fire Department.  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 19:** To see if the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$63,000** to hire a full-time Fire Chief. (If article 19 fails to pass, there will not be a vote on Article 20.) **Moved, seconded. Failed.**

**Article 20:** To see what amount if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$81,000 (A) or \$162,000 (B) for per diem coverage for the Fire Department.  
A) To hire per diem coverage - 5 days per week, 12 hrs. per day, one individual per shift total - \$81,000  
B) To hire per diem coverage - 5 days per week, 12 hrs. per day, two individuals per shift total- \$162,000  
**Article 19 failed, therefore no vote on this article.**

**Article 21:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$200,000** towards the future purchase of a fire truck. The funds will be held in a capital reserve fund until time of purchase. (The Selectboard will not enter into a contract to purchase a fire truck without the approval of the Town)  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 22:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$485,794** for Solid Waste Disposal.  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 23:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$229,904** for Parks/RADR.  
**Moved, seconded to amend the amount to \$198,006. Amendment Failed.**  
**Moved, seconded for the original amount of \$229,904. Approved.**

**Article 24:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$201,698** for Recreation.  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 25:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$94,023** for Insurance.  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 26:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$426,908** for Public Safety.  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 27:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$122,274** for Community Programs.  
**Moved, Seconded. Approved.**

**Article 28:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$227,240** for Code Enforcement/Assessing.  
**Moved, Seconded. Approved.**

**Article 29:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$441,128** and appropriate **\$36,183** from the undesignated fund balance for a total of **\$477,311** for County Tax. (Tax charged by County.) (The \$36,183 is the amount the Town is required to pay over the next 4 years for the County's change in fiscal year.)  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 30:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$650,000** for Capital Roads.  
**Moved, seconded to amend the amount to \$610,000. Approved.**

**Article 31:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate **\$355,000** for the Comprehensive Capital Reserve Account.  
**Moved, seconded to amend the amount to \$1.00. Failed.**  
**Moved, seconded to amend the amount to \$200,000. Approved.**

**Article 32:** To see what amount the voters will vote to spend from the Capital & Reserve Fund for Infrastructure Improvements & Capital Equipment. Items listed with a total of \$513,300.  
**Moved, seconded to amend the amount to \$200,000. Failed.**  
**Moved, seconded to amend the amount to \$400,000. Approved.**

**Article 33:** To see what amount the voters of Harrison will vote to spend on 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Donation Requests. Items listed with a total of \$9,311.75. Selectboard recommended \$1,000 for Harrison Food Bank.  
**Moved, seconded to spend \$10,311.75. Approved.**

**Article 34:** To see if the Voters of Harrison will vote to continue to allow the submission of non-profit request for donations (third-party requests).  
**Moved, seconded. Failed.**

**Article 35:** Shall an ordinance entitled "Floodplain Management Ordinance" be adopted and enacted as a new version. Upon passage of this ordinance, it shall repeal and replace the current Floodplain Management Ordinance effective June 20, 2024.  
**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 36:** Shall an ordinance entitled "Building Permit Requirement Ordinance" be amended?  
**Moved, seconded. Failed.**

**Article 37:** Shall an ordinance entitled "Short-Term Rental Ordinance" be enacted?  
**Moved, seconded. Failed.**

**Article 38:** For expenditures to service the Harrison Public Works Garage Bond Debt as authorized by Article 29 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Shall the Town raise and appropriate **\$295,559.67** through taxes?

**Moved, seconded. Approved.**

**Article 39:** For expenditures related to the Downtown Revitalization project for the Town of Harrison, shall the Town appropriate **\$225,000** from the Comprehensive Capital Reserve Account.

Motion made to amend to \$100,000. Failed.

**Moved, seconded for \$225,000. Approved.**

**Article 40:** To see if voters of the Town of Harrison will vote on all warrant articles by secret ballot.

A yes vote means registered voters will vote on business articles by secret ballot.

A no vote means we will continue with an open floor meeting for business articles.

**Moved, seconded. Failed. Will continue with open floor meetings.**

**Motion was made, seconded to adjourn at 9:38 pm. All in favor.**