

PHILLIPS, MAINE

TO: Emma Jane Andrews, a resident of the Town of Phillips in the County of Franklin and State of Maine.

GREETING: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Phillips, qualified to vote in said Town affairs, to assemble at the **Phillips Area Community Center** 21 Depot Street in said Town, on **Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning**, to act on the following articles, to wit:

Article 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting. Written ballot needed.

Pledge of Allegiance

Article 2: To elect a Town Clerk for the ensuing year. Written ballot needed.

Article 3: To elect two Select Board Member for three year terms. Written ballot.

Article 4: To elect two School Board Directors to MSAD #58. Written ballot.
One member to fill out a term vacated to end in 2027
One member for a term to end in 2028

Article 5: To see if the Select Board will perform the duties of the Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, and to pay no interest thereon, pursuant to MRSA Title 36 §506.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to make property taxes due and payable on October 1, 2025 and April 1, 2026, and, in accordance with MRSA Title 36 §505(4), charge interest on overdue taxes at the rate of 7.5% per annum after the due dates.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate such anticipated revenues as State Revenue Sharing, vehicle and boat excise taxes, Homestead Exemption Reimbursement, Tree Growth Reimbursement, supplemental taxes, license fees and such other miscellaneous revenues to be received in the 2025–2026 fiscal year to reduce the taxes committed. **Anticipated: \$695,590.00**

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate State of Maine Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) funds for the fiscal year 2025-2026 and to authorize the expenditure of said funds for Capital Road improvements.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action of Town Meeting, money from the State, Federal or other governmental units or private sources which become available during the year, and to authorize the Select Board to accept, on behalf of the Town, any and all unconditional gifts of any type of property.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to accept late payment of taxes on real estate after the date of automatic foreclosure on tax lien mortgages, if deemed to be in the best interest of the Town and authorize the Treasurer, after review by the Select Board, to file waivers of foreclosure on properties that are not in the best interest of the Town to foreclose on.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired property as they deem in the best interests of the Town, except that the Select Board shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S. §943-C if they choose to sell property to anyone other than the former owner, as defined in §943-C. 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.

Article 13: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to make final determination regarding opening and closing of roads for Winter Maintenance pursuant to MRSA Title 23 §2953 and to set the weight limits for those roads.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell by sealed bid, auction or consignment such equipment, vehicles and/or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations and to appropriate proceeds in its corresponding reserve fund accounts. And, further, to authorize the Selectmen to spend from those reserve accounts.

Article 15: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to carry forward, appropriate and spend unexpended balances in Capital Roads, Gravel and Capital Project accounts.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to use from Unassigned Funds an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to meet unanticipated expenses or emergencies, if deemed advisable, during the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to use funds from *Overlay* to pay for tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the 2025-2026 fiscal year

Article 18: Shall an Ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Phillips, Maine,” be enacted?

[Note: Because the text of the proposed Ordinance exceeds ten pages in length, a certified copy of the full text of this Ordinance has been posted together with this warrant, and copies are available from the office of the Town Clerk and will be available at the town meeting.]

[These changes to remove the shoreland zoning provisions and to include the provisions required in Title 30-A M.R.S.A. §4364, §4364-A, & §4364-B]

Article 19: Shall an Ordinance entitled, “The Shoreland Zoning of the Town of Phillips, Maine,” be enacted?

[Note: Because the text of the proposed Ordinance exceeds ten pages in length, a certified copy of the full text of this Ordinance and a certified copy of the map have been posted together with this warrant, and copies are available from the office of the Town Clerk and will be available at the town meeting.]

[This ordinance aligns the town's standards with the required changes MDEP made to Shoreland Zoning in 2015 and complies with the Maine Forest Service's requirements so that Phillips can utilize their assistance with enforcement of timber harvesting.]

Article 20: Shall a Moratorium entitled, "Town of Phillips Moratorium Ordinance Solar Arrays" be enacted?
An Attested copy of this ordinance is attached to, and posted with, this warrant.

Article 21: Shall the Town vote to authorize within the municipality the operation of adult use cannabis establishments, provided they operate in compliance with all applicable state and local requirements?

Article 22: Shall the Town vote to enact the "Town of Phillips Marijuana Licensing Ordinance"?
An Attested copy of this ordinance is attached to, and posted with, this warrant.

Article 23: Shall the Town vote to enact the "Town of Phillips Recall of Town Elected Officials Not Covered by Maine State Law" Ordinance?
An Attested copy of this ordinance is attached to, and posted with, this warrant.

Article 24: To see if the Town favors to regain the area used by NorthStar Ambulance for the purpose of expanding the Fire Station.

For years an ambulance has been housed at 138 Park Street with the understanding that portion of the building was owned by the ambulance service currently known as NorthStar. In May of 2024, an agreement was reached between the Select Board and NorthStar in which they would pay rent for the space as they were unable to produce a deed showing ownership for this portion of the building.

It has been observed and reported to the board that there was not an ambulance at this site when 911 calls have been made. Frequently the ambulance would respond from Sugarloaf or elsewhere. The Phillips ambulance would be used for transports from facility to facility. It is reported that this occurs with 4 out of 5 calls. With this in mind, it has been determined that the town may benefit by utilizing this space as an expansion of the Fire Station. It is the Board's understanding that a relocation would not affect the formula used for determining Phillips' coverage costs.

Article 25: To see if the Town authorizes the Select Board to enter into an annual lease agreement with NorthStar Ambulance for the space known as the Ambulance Bay at 138 Park Street. Lease terms to be negotiated by the Select Board and to be in the best interest of the town.

(This article is offered in the event the Town does not choose to regain the Ambulance Bay area for expansion of the Fire Station.)

Article 26: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to purchase a 2026 Western Star Plow Truck utilizing the trade in of two 2014 International Plow Trucks as down payment, with an annual payment of \$50,159.68 for a term of 6 years at an interest rate of 5.50%.

Financial Statement Town of Phillips, Maine

- 1. Total Town indebtedness
 - A. Bonds outstanding and unpaid \$230,396.71
 - B. Bonds authorized and unissued \$ 0
 - C. Bonds to be issued if this question is approved \$250,537.00
- 2. Costs
 - At an estimated interest rate of 5.50% for a term of 6 years, the estimated costs of this bond issue will be:
 - Principal \$250,537.00
 - Interest \$50,421.08
 - Total Debt Service \$300,958.08
- 3. The validity of the bonds and of the voter's ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service for the bond issue varies from the estimate, the ratification by the voters is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board to list a town owned parcel on North Ross Avenue, known as U5-34, with a realtor .

Article 28 : To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$68,200.00.** for **Debt Service** payments.

Link Belt Excavator	(Matures 10/2/2025)	\$16,696.00
Western Star Plow Truck	(Matures 7/15/2029)	\$51,479.45

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$594,875.00** for the **PUBLIC WORKS/HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

The Public Works/Highway Department budget includes the operational expenses required for maintaining and improving the Town's 40.31 miles of roads and the 57.91 miles of roads for winter maintenance. This budget covers salaries and benefits for the Road Commissioner, 2 full-time employees and part-time call-in employees; operating costs for the Town Garage, repair and maintenance of the department's equipment and vehicles, winter sand and salt, gravel, patch, minor equipment purchases, utilities and operating consumables including gas/diesel and \$60,000.00 for Capital Road improvements.

Article 30 : To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$243,490.00** for **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** for fiscal year 2025-2026.

The General Administration Budget includes salary and benefits for the Town Manager/Treasurer/Tax Collector and part-time office assistant(s); tax lien fees, office supplies, annual financial audit, software support and licensing fee; training and travel; office equipment maintenance; dues, fees and postage. Town Clerk Budget includes an annual stipend, office expenses, and pay for a Deputy and ballot clerks, travel/training and dues/fees and includes the Registrar of Voters duties. Select Board Budget includes stipends, general liability and public officials' insurance, legal fees, advertising, travel/training, tax acquired property maintenance and MMA dues. Health Officer Budget includes annual pay compensation. Municipal Buildings Budget includes building maintenance and repair, equipment maintenance and repair, utilities, supplies and property and casualty insurance. Planning and Assessing Budget includes salary/stipend for the Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector, AVCOG annual dues, office supplies, advertising fees and travel/training for CEO, Planning Board and the Appeals Board; contracted assessing service, map updates and Registry of Deeds fees. Town Parks includes minor repair and supplies.

Administration:	\$154,705.00
Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters:	\$ 12,194.00
Planning & Assessing:	\$ 22,807.00
Health Officer:	\$ 654.00
Town Parks	\$ 250.00
Selectmen:	\$ 37,130.00
Municipal Building:	\$ 15,750.00

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$118,162.00** for **PUBLIC SAFETY** for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Street Lights	\$ 7,000.00
Ambulance	\$40,850.00
Animal Control	\$ 7,092.00
Hydrant Rental (governed by Maine PUC)	\$63,220.00

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$159,825.00** for the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

The Fire Department Budget includes a stipend for the Fire Chief and pay for the volunteer firefighters, utilities, repair and maintenance of the vehicles and equipment, operating supplies, insurance, gas/diesel, training, dues and fees, physicals and immunizations as required by law, building maintenance and repairs and new equipment purchases.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$155,730.00** for **SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING** for the fiscal year 2025-2026

The Solid Waste & Recycling Budget includes wages for 2 part-time employees and a part time call-in, trucking and disposal fees, repair and maintenance of the compactor and containers, required training and immunizations, state licensing fees, building maintenance and repairs, operating supplies, tire disposal, universal waste disposal and construction/building waste disposal.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$20,115.00** for **CARE OF CEMETERIES** for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$6,000.00** for **CARE OF PARKS** for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$4,500.00** for **GENERAL ASSISTANCE** for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$70,500.00** to the **TOWN'S RESERVE ACCOUNTS** and to allow the Select Board to authorize expenditures from these accounts.

Public Works:	\$25,000.00	Veterans Grave Stone Repair:\$	500.00
Fire Department:	\$25,000.00	Town Office:	\$ 5,000.00
Transfer Station:	\$10,000.00	Town Revaluation	\$ 5,000.00

The Reserve Accounts are for Capital Equipment/Vehicle purchases for the Fire Department, Public Works Department and Capital Equipment/Vehicle purchases and Capital Improvements for the Transfer Station and Capital Improvements to the Town Office and repairs to Veterans and Ancient grave stones. Amounts in these accounts as of this printing:

Public Works:	\$165,945.40
Fire Department:	\$ 58,744.59
Transfer Station:	\$ 23,544.05
Veterans Grave Stone Repair:	\$ 5,207.50
Town Office:	\$ 10,233.03
Town Revaluation	\$ 50,692.32
Sidewalks	\$ 33,588.00


- Article 38:** To see if the Town will vote to **appropriate** to the **North Franklin Snowmobile Club** monies received from the State for the Town's share of the reimbursement of snowmobile registrations for fiscal year 2025-2026.
- Article 39:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,000.00** for the **PHILLIPS CONSERVATION COMMISSION** for fiscal year 2025-2026.
- Article 40 :** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,000.00** for the **PHILLIPS LIBRARY** for the fiscal year 2025-2026 and recommend matching funds.
- Article 41:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** for the **PHILLIPS AREA FOOD PANTRY** for the fiscal year 2025-2026.
- Article 42:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500.00** for **U.S.A. FLAGS FOR VETERANS' GRAVES and Telephone Pole Placement** for fiscal year 2025-2026.
- Article 43:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$750.00** for the **Phillips Little League** for the fiscal year 2025-2026.
- Article 44:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500.00** for the **NARROW GAUGE RIDERS ATV CLUB** for fiscal year 2025-2026 and require matching funds.
- Article 45:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000.00** for the **Phillips Historical Society** for fiscal year 2025-2026 and require matching funds.
- Article 46:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** for the **Phillips Chamber of Commerce** for the Phillips Old Home Days Parade for fiscal year 2025-2026 and require matching funds.
- Article 47:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** for the **Phillips Area Community Center** for fiscal year 2025-2026 and recommend matching funds.

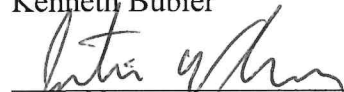
Given under our hands this 3rd day of June 2025

TOWN OF PHILLIPS SELECTBOARD


Eugene Caton, Chair


Janet White, Vice Chair


Kenneth Bubier


Justin Vachon

***The Registrar of Voters will be at the Phillips Area Community Center, 21 Depot Street on Town Meeting day, one half hour before the meeting, to accept registrations of those becoming eligible to vote.
A person who is not registered to vote cannot vote in any election.***