

TOWN WARRANT
MARCH 8-9, 2024

To: Residents of the Town of Rome

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Rome, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to assemble at the Rome Community Center, in said Town on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 11:45 a.m. to act upon Articles 1 and 2. Polls are to be opened from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at which time the meeting will be recessed; the recessed meeting will be reconvened at the Rome Community Center at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 9, 2024, then and there to act upon the remaining articles in the warrant.

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Rich Ruhlin - 4 handwritten

Article 2. To proceed with voting by Australian ballot system to elect First Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a term of one year; Second Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a term of one year; Third Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a term of one year; Town Clerk for a term of one year; Tax Collector for a term of one year; Treasurer for a term of one year; Road Commissioner for a term of one year: and RSU 18 School Board Director for a 3-year term.

1st Selectmen – Kelly Archer

2nd Selectmen – Larry DiPietro

3rd Selectmen – Robert Hudson

Tax Collector – Tammy Lyons

Treasurer- Tammy Lyons

Town Clerk - Julie Morrison

Road Commissioner – Carrol Bubar

RSU 18 School Board Director – Andrew Cook

Article 3. To see if the Town will allow non-residents, who have information pertaining to any following articles, to speak when recognized.

PASS

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to appropriate an amount not to exceed three-twelfths (3/12) of the annual budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2024 annual budget to support expenditures during the period of January 1,2025 until the date of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee non approval 5-0
PASS

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Rome by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under these warrant articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. Note: This vote must be taken by written ballot. *Budget as presented represents \$177,165.82 over the current tax levy limit.*

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0
**WRITTEN VOTE: YES 21 NO 15 NON-APPROVAL
MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION, 2ND YES 22 NO 11
MOTION TO REFER MEETING TO A DATE/TIME OF CERTAIN
MAY 18, 2024 AT 10AM, 2ND
YES 19 NO 15 - PASSED**

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for General Assistance. Spent \$6505
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 7. Shall an ordinance entitled “Rome Minimum Lot Size Ordinance” be amended as follows?
*Section VI. Accessory Dwelling Units
Notwithstanding the road frontage and lot size requirements listed under Section I of this ordinance, an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) as described under Title 30-A 4364-B may be permitted outside the shoreland zone provided the following requirements are met:*

1. *The ADU shall be served by a legal subsurface wastewater disposal system and shall have access to a potable water supply.*
2. *All requirements listed under Title 12 Chapter 423-A (State Minimum Lot Size Law) shall be met.*
3. *The total footprint of the ADU shall not exceed 1,000 ft²*
4. *The peak height of the ADU shall not exceed 25 feet.*
5. *Off-street parking shall be provided for all occupants of the ADU.*
 - a. *A minimum parking area of 162 ft² shall be provided for each bedroom within the ADU. This parking area shall be in addition to any parking necessary for the primary dwelling.*

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for the maintenance and operation of the Rome Community Center. Spent \$29,183.66
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

- Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Community Center Reserve Account. Spent \$44,829.41 (heat pump grant funds received \$16,800) *Balance as of 12/31/2023: \$5879.95*
Board of Selectmen recommends 5-0
Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0
- Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,800 for the care and maintenance of Rome cemeteries; to include repair of headstones as needed. Spent \$14,750
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends \$15,500 5-0
- Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$35,000 for the repair of Town-maintained roads and bridges. Spent \$48,081.40
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a non-lapsing road repair and improvements reserve account for road improvements and repairs which shall remain non-lapsing until rescinded by the Town; to raise and/or appropriate \$120,000 for the 2024 fiscal year; and to further authorize the Selectboard to make expenditures from the account thereafter for these purposes without further vote of the Town.
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0
- Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for roadside mowing and the cutting of brush along Town-maintained roads. Spent \$11,217
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$142,500 for the snow plowing and sanding of Town-maintained roads. Spent \$125,799.93 (\$15,799.93 from contingency)
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,000 for the purchase and stockpiling of salt and sand. Spent \$55,399.90
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,136 for maintenance of the Town's salt and sand shed. Spent \$3,864
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

- Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the payment of street lighting, to include the lighting at the salt and sand shed on Hillside Lane. Spent \$2,144
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,702 for Property, Casualty, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment insurance premiums. Spent \$22,000
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500 for the required auditing of Town books and records. Spent \$6,900
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$28,500 for Assessing Services. Spent \$27,000
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0
- Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to start a reserve account for the Town reevaluation planned for 2025 and raise and appropriate \$27,600 for that account. (Total cost of revaluation \$92,000)
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends **non** approval 5-0
- Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$60,000 to fund the Town's solid waste disposal contract with Waste Management/Crossroads in Norridgewock. Spent \$58,010.94
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 4-0-1
- Article 23.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,870.00 to fund the Town's contract with Somerset Humane Society. Spent \$1,951.60
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 4-1
- Article 24.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,768 for membership in Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) Spent \$3,733.01
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,436 for membership in Maine Municipal Association (MMA). Spent \$3,241
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

- Article 26.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,592 for software licensing, registrations, and technical support. Spent \$16,675.29
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends \$20,000 5-0
- Article 27.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,600 for the contract governing the regular operation and maintenance of the three Belgrade Region Dams. Spent \$4,600
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 28.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$19,170 for the Belgrade Village Dam concrete remediation, additional scheduled projects in addition to funding a Capital Reserve Fund to help offset future large project expenditures. Spent \$29,621
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends amending to appropriate \$19,170 from ARPA funds 5-0
- Article 29.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the printing of the annual town report. Spent \$1,384
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0
- Article 30.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the Legal Expense Account and for any unspent balance at the end of the fiscal year to be transferred to the Legal Reserve Account. *Balance as of 12/31/2023 \$15,663.58*
Spent \$1,050
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends non approval 4-1
- Article 31.** To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$2,907 as needed for legal expenses and/or to fund a lobbyist to substantiate the Town's withdrawal from the Kennebec Regional Development Authority Spent \$735
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0
- Article 32.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$176,580 for municipal officers' and officials' salaries. Spent \$165,811.90

	Proposed 2024	Spent 2023
First Selectman *	\$6,000	\$6,000
Second Selectman *	\$5,500	\$5,500
Third Selectman *	\$5,500	\$5,500

Property Tax Collector*	\$23,800	\$23,000
Treasurer*	\$14,000	\$13,000
Town Clerk*/Registrar of Voters	\$8,500	\$8,500
Motor Vehicle Agent/Excise Collector (up to \$26/hr.)	\$41,080	\$38,710.83
Administrative Assistant (up to \$22/hr.)	\$23,100	\$17,913.50
Road Commissioner	\$5,000	\$5,000
RSU 18 School Board Director	\$250	\$250
Meeting Moderator (\$200 per event)	\$600	\$400
Election Warden (\$17/hr.)	\$800	\$0
Ballot Clerk (\$15/hr.)	\$900	\$487.50
Code Enforcement Officer (up to \$30/hr.)	\$33,000	\$33,000
Licensed Plumbing Inspector **	¾ fees	¾ fees
Health Officer	\$100	\$100
911 Addressing Officer	\$500	\$500
Planning Board (\$200 per member)	\$1,400	\$1,400
Board of Appeals (\$100 per member)	\$500	\$500
Fire Chief	\$1,200	\$1,200
Assistant Fire Chief	\$600	\$600
Rescue Chief	\$600	\$600
Emergency Management Director	\$250	\$250
Sexton	\$1,000	\$1,000
Animal Control Officer (\$200/month)	\$2,400	\$2,400
Total Salaries	\$176,580	\$165,811.83

*Stipend

**no taxation required, appropriation only

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 4-1

Article 33. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$15,400 for the Town's contribution to Social Security and Medicare. Spent \$15,005.49

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,700 for the following expense accounts. Spent \$14,490

	Proposed 2024	Spent 2023	2024 Budget Committee Recommends
Selectmen	\$1,400	\$1,549.49	\$1,000
Town Clerk	\$2,000	\$2,762.29	\$1,500
Excise Tax Clerk	\$1,000	\$1,090.40	\$500
Tax Collector/Treasurer	\$7,000	\$7,219.39	\$6,500
Planning Board	\$1,200	\$768.43	\$1,200

Code Travel Expense	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
Total	\$13,700	\$14,490	\$11,800

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends \$11,800 5-0

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,000 for regional emergency dispatching services. Spent \$16,981.10
 Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 36. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$500 for the Town’s Emergency Management Agency. Any unspent balance in the Town Emergency Management Agency budget at the end of the fiscal year shall be transferred to the Emergency Management Reserve Account (*Balance as of 12/31/2023 \$3968.03*) Spent \$31.97
 Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
 Budget Committee recommends non approval 5-0

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$66,000 for the Rome Fire and Rescue Departments. Spent \$61,161.95

	Proposed 2024	Spent 2023	2024 Budget Committee Recommends
Building Maintenance	\$10,000	\$8316.38	\$10,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$4,000	\$7,194.46	\$4,000
New Equipment	\$10,000	\$6,186.08	\$8,000
Labor (\$16. /hr.)	\$25,600	\$24,030	\$26,000
Training & Education	\$1000	\$767.77	\$1,000
Truck Maintenance	\$6,000	\$5,660.06	\$6,000
Tower Fee	\$1,000	\$660	\$1,000
State of Maine compliance	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
Medical	\$250	\$0	\$250
Hose Testing	\$3,500	\$2,463.51	\$3,500
License and Fees	\$350	\$310	\$350
Grant (matching funds)	\$3,000	\$4,273.69	\$3,000
Total	\$66,000	\$61,161.95	\$64,400

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends \$64,400 4-1

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Fire Department Truck Reserve Account. Spent \$272,101 **Balance as of 12/31/2023: \$23,712.32*

* *See details with Fire Department Report*
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 4-1

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Rescue Truck Reserve Account. *Balance as of 12/31/2023: \$47,250.04* Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 4-1

Article 40. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,500 for a contract with Delta Ambulance to continue service to the Town of Rome. Spent \$15,465

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 41. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,990 as Rome's proportionate share of the second Belgrade Lakes full-time firefighter/paramedic's salary and benefits. Spent \$42,240

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$24,000 for donation to the Belgrade Lakes Association to mitigate milfoil in Great Meadow Stream, Great Pond, and Long Pond, and support the courtesy boat inspections and other water quality issues. Spent \$24,000

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 43. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for 7 Lakes Alliance's (formerly, Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance) Youth Conservation Corps program to protect and preserve North Pond, Great Pond, Long Pond, Watson Pond, and other water quality issues. Spent \$8,000

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 44. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for donation to North Pond Association for courtesy boat inspections and other water quality issues. Spent \$4,000

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 45. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,625 for donations to the following non-profit organizations that provide services to Rome residents.
Spent \$6,834.77

	Proposed 2024	Spent 2023
Spectrum Generations	\$3,749	\$3,570
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$600	\$900
Life Flight of Maine	\$574	\$574
Hospice Volunteer of Waterville Area	\$200	\$200
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center	\$402	\$402
*Community Health & Counseling Services	*\$0	\$150
*Crisis & Counseling Centers	*\$0	\$1,038.77
Maine Public (Broadcasting)	\$100	*\$0
Total	\$ 5,625	\$6,834.77

*Did not submit a request
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee non approval 4-1

Article 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for donation to Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry. Spent \$2,000
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 47. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$100,000 from unassigned fund balance (surplus) to offset the 2024 tax commitment.
Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee makes no recommendation 5-0

Article 48. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appropriation of \$289,300 in anticipated revenues to offset the 2024 tax commitment.

Auto Excise	\$260,000
Boat Excise	\$8,500
Office/Agent Fees	\$5,800
TCT Revenues	\$2,000
Interest on Taxes	\$3,000
Bank Interest	\$10,000
Total	\$289,300

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 49. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to carry over, and assign fund balance accordingly, to the 2024 fiscal year any appropriated unexpended funds in 2023 fiscal year end, provided that the funds remain in the same account.

Global Towers	\$74.00
Dog Account	2,669.47
Campership Fund	\$614.39
Contingency	\$31,256.07
Recreation Committee	\$3,945.09
Transfer Station CD	\$156,145.56
Rescue Truck Reserve CD	\$47,250.04
Rescue Donations	\$6,200
F.D. Truck Reserve CD	\$23,712.32
FD Donations	\$6,761.05
FD Enterprise	\$7,871.11
Legal Reserve	\$15,663.58
Escrow TP	\$2,000.00
ARPA	\$52,380.05
Local Road Assist Program	\$10,872
Flagpole	\$344.32
EMA	\$3,968.03
Community Center Reserve	\$5,879.95
Cemetery Trust	\$11,653.97
Cemetery Maintenance	\$2880.00
Total	\$390,106.00

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends non approval 4-0-1

Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$24,070.98, to cover the following FY 2023 overdrafts:

KVCOG	\$233
All Expense accounts	\$1,622
RD Commissioner travel	\$83.48
Audit	\$700
FD wages	\$2,620
Brush Cutting	\$1,217
Roads & Bridges	\$12,081
Community Center	\$4,009.50
General Assistance	\$1,505
Total	\$24,070.98

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends appropriating \$24,070.98 from contingency 5-0

Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to set the due date for 2024 property taxes as October 31,2024 and to charge interest on the delinquent tax rate of 8.5% per annum on taxes unpaid as of November 1, 2024.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 52. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 4.5% for the period of assessment and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance (surplus).

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 53. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to discount tax bills 3% if paid in full 30 days from tax billing date; the discounts and abatements are to be paid from overlay funds.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 54. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. 944 upon finding by the Board of Selectmen that the ownership of the property subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's interests.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of tax-acquired property as it deems to be in the best interest of the Town, except that (i) the Board of Selectmen shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if it chooses to sell tax-acquired property to anyone other than the former owner; and (ii) for the sale of tax-acquired property to someone other than the former owner, the excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Article 56. To see if the Town will vote to apply all franchise fees, tree growth reimbursements, and veteran tax exemption reimbursements to the contingency fund and to appropriate the same for unexpected expenses and/or to cover overdrafts.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends amending to appropriate up to \$10,000

Article 57. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by bid or auction, or on such terms and conditions as deemed in the best interest of the Town, such equipment, vehicles, or furniture as are no longer necessary for Town operations, as determined by the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0

Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 58. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept or reject any conditional gifts/grants of money, or personal property, to the Town and to appropriate and expend funds for the purpose for which the gift/grant was made, in accordance with any conditions imposed by the donor.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 59. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the Rome Ruff Riders for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may deem advisable, for that purpose.

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 60. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for donation to the Rome snowmobile club, Rome Ruff Riders. Spent \$1,200

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 61. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 to support the Rome Recreation Committee activities. Spent \$8,388.99 Donations/funds raised \$3,974.08 Special Revenue Account Balance \$3,945.09

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 62. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 to publish, print, and mail a townwide newsletter to residents. Spent \$0

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 63. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 to convert the Town of Rome maps from the current analog format to a more versatile digital format. Spent \$0

Board of Selectmen recommends 3-0
Budget Committee recommends 5-0

Article 64. To see if the Town will vote to elect one member from the floor to the Rome Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee for a 3-year term. (Larry Stafford (1-year member)).

Article 65. To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor five members to serve on the Budget Committee to review all items to be inserted into the Town Warrant requiring appropriation of monies and their recommendations noted. The terms of Trent Shute (3-yr member), Alice VanDerwerken (3-yr member), Richard LaBelle (2-yr member), Philip Burnworth (1-yr alternate) and Shawn Landry (1-yr alternate) expire.

Article 66. To see if the Town will allow the Selectboard to appoint members to the Recreation Committee rather than being nominated from the floor.

Article 67. To see if the Town will vote to elect from the floor three members to serve on the Recreation Committee. The term of Barbara McCosh (1-yr alternate member), Carroll Bubar (3-yr member), Sandy Shute (3-yr member) expires.

Rome Board of Selectmen

Kelly Archer, #1 Selectman

Larry DiPietro, Jr., #2 Selectman

Robert Hudson, #3 Selectman

A True Attest Copy

Town Clerk