Town Warrant 2023

To **Lori Keefe**, a citizen of the Town of Garland in the County of Penobscot, State of Maine.

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn inhabitants of the Town of Garland, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Garland Community Center, 108 Corinth Road, in said town on **Saturday, March 11, 2023, at 10 o'clock** in the forenoon to act on the following articles, to wit:

Art .01. To elect a **Moderator** to preside at said meeting.

Art .02. To elect a **Selectperson** for a three-year term to expire on 03/2026, Randy Webber's term is up.

Art. 03. To appoint a **Cemetery Perpetual Care Trustee** for a three-year term to expire 03/2026. Victory Glenar's term is up.

Art. 04. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to appoint a seven-member **Budget Committee** to serve for the calendar year 2024 finances, or act on anything relative thereto.

Art. 05. To appoint a member to the **School Board** for a 3-year term. Andrea Rollins term expires March 2023.

Art. 06. To re-appoint Angela Armstrong as a **School Board** member for a 1-year term with an expiration of March 2024. Ms. Armstrong was sworn in 9/8/2021 for a 3-year term – the expiration date was incorrectly written on her Oath as 3/2023 when it should have been 3/2024.

Art. 07. To see if the Municipal Officers should appoint a Steering Committee to research the pros and cons of a Town Manager to bring back to Town Meeting 2024.

Art. 08. To see if the Municipal Officers should appoint a Steering Committee to research the need and expense of creating a Warming/Cooling Center for the residents of Garland.

Art. 09. To see if the Municipal Officers should hire an engineer in 2024 to assess road infrastructure and help create a plan for investing in Garland's infrastructure.

Art. 10. To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Legal Reserve**, a non-lapsing reserve fund, for the purpose of funding representation of town legal matters, and to provide the Select Board with continuing authority to spend from the account for the purposes stated without further vote of the Town Meeting, this authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by the Town Meeting.

Art. 11. To see if the Town will vote to **Re-Appropriate the balance of $13,332 from the 2022** Legal Expense and to vote to place this amount in the **Legal Reserve Fund** if Article 10 is voted through. **Should the Legal Reserve Fund not be established, the re-appropriation would be for the Legal Expense line.**

Art. 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$7,132 for Select Board.**

Art. 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$208,843 for Administration.**

Art. 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$20,000 & Misc. Receipts for the Community Center Building.**

Art. 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$2,950 for Elections.**

Art. 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$1,500 for Planning Board.**

Art. 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$5,987 & Misc. Receipts for Code Enforcement.**

Art. 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$42,790 & Misc. Receipts for Garland Fire Department.**

Art. 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$5,000 for Garland Fire Department Equipment Reserve.**

Art. 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$8,332 & Misc. Receipts for Animal Control.**

Art. 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$470,666 & Misc. Receipts for Public Works Department**, to be distributed as follows:

Transfer Station/Recycling	$29,813
Cemeteries	$26,963
Highway	$413,890

Art. 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$11,125 for Assessing.**

Art. 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$3000 & Misc. Receipts for General Assistance.**

Art. 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$7,750 for Provider Service Programs.**

Provider	Recommendation	Requested
Safe Place Community Center	1200	1200
Abbott Memorial Library	1547	1547
Lyndon Oak Library	1000	1000
Pine Tree Hospice	500	500
Life Flight (.50 per capita)	553	553
Community Health Counseling	100	100
Penquis Cap	2500	9262
American Red Cross	100	Not specified
Eastern Area on Aging	150	150
Partners for Peace/Spruce Run	100	Not specified
Total Provider Donations	**$7750**	

Art. 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$350 for Town Field.**

Art. 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$3,000 for the Transfer Station Reserve fund.**

Art. 27. To see if the Town will vote to establish an **Unemployment Reserve**, a non-lapsing reserve fund, for the purpose of funding unemployment claims assessed to the town, and to provide the Select Board with continuing authority to spend from the account for the purpose stated without further vote of the Town Meeting, this authority to remain in force from year to year until rescinded by the Town Meeting.

Art. 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$10,000 for the Unemployment Reserve Fund.**

Art. 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise **$10,000** to resolve the outstanding commitment that was made in ***Art. 2 2012 Town Meeting "$80,700 from surplus for changes needed to reuse & restructure the elementary school entering a 4-year commitment to repay $10,000 per year to be appropriated at annual Town Meeting beginning March 2013."*** TM 2013 motion to raise the $10,000 was not passed. TM 2014 voted yes for $10,000, TM 2015 Art 30 voted yes for $20,000 from the excess of the Holtz Bridge budget to be used. This totals $30,000. No records that speak to the remaining $10,000 balance.

Budget Committee and Select Board recommends forgiving this commitment.

Art. 30 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State for snowmobile reimbursement to the **Frosty Valley Snow Sledders Club** for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open in snow season at all times to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers deem advisable for that purpose.

Art. 31. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all the 2023 Local Road Assistance reimbursement to the Road Improvement Reserve Fund.

Art. 32. To see if the Town will approve the ARPA Committee's recommendation to apply the balance of the ARPA Grant Funds ($102,400 +/-) toward the town's portion of the Stream Crossing Project to replace the culvert on Campbell Road.

Art. 33. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the 2023 fiscal year. (2022 abatements totaled $6,664) The municipal officers need an appropriation vote to pay tax abatement either through raised funds or through appropriated funds using overlay.

Budget Committee and Select Board recommend appropriating through overlay set by the Assessor.

Art. 34. To see if the Town will fund the appropriations approved on Art. 10- 33 inclusive. All Appropriations Articles recommended by the Budget Committee and Select Board.

Source of Funding	
$123,877	Revenue Sharing
$8,000	Miscellaneous General Government Income
$84,000	State Reimbursement Revenue
$189,000	Excise Tax
Total of $404,877 of sourced funding with the remaining funding to come from property taxes.	

Art. 35. Shall the ordinance entitled "Solar Array Ordinance for the Town of Garland, Maine", originally presented at the March 1, 2023, Public Hearing be enacted?

Art. 36. To see if the Town will approve combining the Town Office Reserve Fund ($3,442.50) and the Community Center Reserve Fund ($3,870.68) to make one Reserve Fund titled **Community Center Reserve** with a balance of $7,313.18.

Art. 37. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board to reduce Department Budgets if the State Revenue Sharing and Local Revenue decreases below expected funding (Revenue Sharing and Excise Tax collected)

Art. 38. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to transfer up to 5% from department budgets to cover any unanticipated shortfalls to prevent overdrafts.

Art 39. To see if the Town will fix a date when taxes shall be due and payable and to see if the Town will fix a rate of interest to be charged on taxes unpaid after the due date.

6% per annum, September 15, 2023

Art. 40. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to sell and dispose of any tax-acquired real estate either by allowing the owner to buy back at the Municipal Officer's discretion or by sealed bids at a public auction to the highest acceptable bid stipulated by the Municipal Officers and to execute quit-claim deeds for such property.

Art. 41. To see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer to pay bills from January 1, 2024, through Town Meeting March 2024.

Art. 42. To see if the Town in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A., Section 506 will authorize the Tax Collector and Town Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed and to pay no interest thereon.

Art. 43. To see of the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to sell or dispose of Town surplus personal property with an estimated value of $2,000 on such terms as they deem advisable.

Art. 44. To see if the Town will vote to set the annual town meeting for the second Saturday of March (March 9) 2024.

Art. 45. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a "tax club" payment plan for property taxes committed in 2023, whereby: (1) the taxpayer agrees to pay four (4) monthly payments to the town by the 15th of each month based on his/her estimated actual tax obligation for current year property taxes; (2) the town agrees to not charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement; (3) the town authorizes the Tax Collector to accept tax club payments for current year taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes; (4) the agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due date(s) an interest date(s) and rate as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club; (5) only taxpayers who do not have outstanding tax obligations for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club program; and (6) taxpayers wishing to participate in tax club for a particular property tax year shall enter an agreement with the town by a publicly advertised deadline determined by the Tax Collector.

Art. 46. To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers at their discretion to accept or apply for and expend gifts, donations, bequests, and grants on behalf of the Town of Garland should such funds become available.

Art. 47. To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers, should they in their discretion determine it to be preferable to obtain a tax anticipation note (TAN), to investigate, enter and execute all necessary documents for a line of credit to temporarily fund budget needs that may arise in the 2023 municipal year prior to the receipt of sufficient tax revenues, and to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate funds a s necessary from the tax revenues once received for the purpose of funding payments on said line of credit.

Dated: February 22, 2023

A true copy of the warrant,

Attest: _____
Clerk of Town of Garland
(Deputy Clerk)

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_____
_____
Municipal Officers