

CASTLE HILL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

At 7:00 PM, Renee Ellis, Deputy Clerk and GA Administrator opened the Annual Town Meeting by reading the following statement:

GREETINGS:

I, Renee Ellis , Deputy Clerk and GA Administrator of the Town of Castle Hill, in the County of Aroostook and the State of Maine, have had Jamie Bellanceau warn and notify the inhabitants of Castle Hill who are qualified by law to vote in the Town affairs to meet at the Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman Fire Station, in Mapleton, on Tuesday, the 17th day of March, 2026 at 3:00 PM for the purpose of acting on Articles 1 thru 28 by ballot as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from three o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock in the evening; and to notify and want said inhabitants to meet at the Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman Fire Station, in Mapleton, Maine on Tuesday, the 17th day of March, 2026, at seven o'clock in the evening and then and there to act on Articles 2 thru 28.

True attested copies of the warrant were posted at the Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman Town Office, and the Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman Fire Station. All being public and conspicuous places for the Town of Castle Hill.

Article 1. To elect, *by majority on written ballot*, a moderator to preside at said meeting.

A motion was made by Herman Condon, seconded by Shari Cheney to nominate Lynnelle Foster as Moderator and to preside at said meeting.

No further nominations were made. Ellis asked for a vote by show of hands. Vote passed by show of hands to elect Lynelle Foster as Moderator.

Article 2. To elect, *by majority on secret ballot*, according to the provisions of the Revised Statutes of Maine, Title 30-A, Section 2528: One (1) Select Board Members for a term of three (3) years, and One (1) Assessor for a term of three (3) years.

Select Board (3-year Term): Ryan Spooner, 15 votes (W) and Blank - 2 Votes

Assessor (3-Year Term): Maylen Kenney, 16 Votes (W) and Blank – 1 Vote

Total Ballots Cast: 17

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to approve the adoption of a new joint logo for the Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman for official municipal use, and to authorize the Select Board and Town Manager to use and implement the logo.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Ewen Allison to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 4. Shall an Ordinance entitled Land Use Ordinance for the Town of Castle Hill be enacted? (An attested copy of this ordinance is available from the municipal clerk).
SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Shai Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands with 1 Objection.

Article 5. To see if the Town will authorize the municipal officers to choose all other necessary municipal officials for the ensuing year.
SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 6. To see what date the Town will vote taxes to be due and payable.
SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Due and payable upon receipt of bill.

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to charge interest on taxes unpaid as of a certain date; if so, how much, and what date.
SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: 7.0% effective November 1, 2026

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes paid pursuant to the Revised Statutes of Maine, Title 36, Section 506-A, interest rate may not exceed more than 4% less than the delinquent interest tax rate.
SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: 3.0%

Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 9. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance.
SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$15,766

Motion by Ewen Allison, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 10. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Property Services. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Any unused appropriation of the Planning Board and Zoning Board accounts will be carried over to the next year.
SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$512

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Safety. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$32,488

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Community Services. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$4,068

Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Reserve Accounts.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$42,750

Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance. Any overdraft to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Any unused appropriations will be carried over to the next year.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: \$1,000

Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Scott Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following total anticipated revenues from State Revenue Sharing, Local Road Assistance Program, Surplus Use, and all other revenues, as estimated, and appropriate said sum for the purpose of reducing the overall Tax Commitment:

State Revenue Sharing	\$ 66,394
Local Road Assistance Program	\$ 18,024
Surplus Use	\$ 60,000
All Other Revenue	<u>\$151,499</u>
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES	\$295,917

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Ewen Allison, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 16. To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$327,876 as its share of Joint Expenses for the fiscal year ending 12/31/2026, said appropriations having been set by the Joint

Select Board, pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement and Private and Special Laws of 2009. Said appropriations comprised, as follows:

	2026 PROPOSED
General Government	\$ 76,610
Highway	\$160,994
Fire	\$ 24,237
Recreation	\$ 10,861
Property Services	\$ 10,210
Public Safety	\$ 2,026
Community Services	\$ 175
Reserve Account	<u>\$ 42,763</u>
TOTAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES	\$327,876

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to appropriate all interest earned or capital gains realized on Reserve Accounts as Interest Earned Revenue.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all General Assistance reimbursements from the State of Maine to reduce the Town's General Assistance expenses.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount equal to 3/12th of the 2026 budget from January 2027 until a budget is adopted. This will allow the Town to operate during the 3 months prior to the annual town meeting.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Ewin Allison to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to expend funds from the Local Road Improvement reserve account in the best interest of the Town, when proper funds are available.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Shari Cheney, seconded by Herman Condon to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to transfer funds received from snowmobile registrations and the Snowmobile Club Trail Maintenance Grant-In-Aid Program to the Aroostook River Snowmobile Club, provided they maintain trails for recreational use which may be used by the general public.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Ryan Spooner to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to purchase property or equipment to benefit, or for the best interest of the Town, when proper reserve funds are available.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to sell any outdated capital equipment on such terms as they deem advisable and place such funds in the equipment reserve fund, according to the Interlocal Agreement.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Ryan Spooner to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate, however acquired, on such terms as they deem advisable, to execute a municipal quit claim deed without covenants on such property, and to lease property and sell stumpage on such terms as they deem advisable. Tax-Acquired real estate sales shall follow the Maine statutes 36 M.R.S. §942 and §943, as amended.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Herman Condon, seconded by Ryan Spooner to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers, on behalf of the Town, to apply for, accept and expend grant funds from state government agencies, federal government agencies, or private organizations, for any purpose they deem in the best interest of the Town.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Ewen Allison, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers, on behalf of the Town, to accept gifts and real estate which may be given to the Town, and to accept funds from the State of Maine, the United States and from other identified sources, and to appropriate any funds received to specified or appropriate accounts or funds.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Ewen Allison, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to execute contracts of terms three (3) years or less, for services deemed in the best interest of the Town.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Ryan Spooner, seconded by Shari Cheney to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Article 28. To see if the Town, in accordance with the Maine statutes, 36 M.R.S. §506, will authorize the tax collector and town treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed and to pay no interest thereon.

SELECT BOARD RECOMMEND: Approval

Motion by Scott Cheney, seconded by Ryan Spooner to accept the Select Board's Recommendation as written. Motion passed by show of hands.

Lynnelle Foster announced the results of the 2026 Castle Hill Municipal Election; no further items were discussed. Lynnelle Adjourned the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Renee Ellis
Deputy Clerk/GA Administrator**