

*Please note the following are draft Articles at the time of printing the town report. Please check the posted warrant for the final language.



Town of Mercer 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

To, Deborah Tracy, a resident of the Town of Mercer, in the County of Somerset, State of Maine
GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the **Town of Mercer**; qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Mercer Community Center, 1015 Beech Hill Rd, in the said Town of Mercer on **Friday, March 6th, 2026**, at 11:00 AM then and there to act upon Articles 1 then by secret ballot on article 2, the polling hours therefore to be from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, the Annual Town Business Meeting will be held the following day, **Saturday March 7th, 2026** beginning at 5:30 PM to act on Articles 3-40.

Article 1

To choose a moderator to preside over said meeting.

Article 2

To choose by secret ballot all Town Officers for the current year.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend any amount not to exceed 3/12th of the current annual budget during the period from January 1st of the following year to the date of that year's annual town meeting.

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to set the date that property taxes shall become due and payable as **August 15th** annually or 30 calendar days from commitment, whichever date is greater. And to begin charging interest thereon at a rate of **6.0%** annually.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: August 15, 2026 is a Saturday and Town Office **WILL NOT** be open for business. For the 2026 tax year, the State Treasurer has capped the interest rate on delinquent real estate taxes at 7%.

Article 5

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$131,721** for **Salaries and Benefits for Administration** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
1 st Selectman	\$6,000	\$6,000
2 nd Selectman	\$6,000	\$6,000
3 rd Selectman	\$6,000	\$6,000
Clerk/Tax Collector/Treas/Admin	\$54,400	\$54,400
Deputy	\$28,392	\$27,000
Part-Time Office	\$6,000	\$6,000
SS, Medicare, PMLA	\$8,934	\$8,600
Health Insurance	\$16,258	\$17,721
TOTAL	\$131,984	\$131,721

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 6

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to hire a **Building Maintenance Superintendent** for the Mercer Community Center and to raise and appropriate **\$3,530** from Taxation and **\$3,500** from The MCC Maintenance Fund.

Salary and Payroll Taxes	Taxation	MCC Maintenance Fund
\$6,500 + \$530 = \$7,030	\$3,530	\$3,500

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 3-1-0)

Information: If approved, there will be a \$3,000 savings from contracted janitorial services. As of 12/31/2025 the balance of the MCC Maintenance Fund was \$120,922.77 (Sale of former land fill land increased fund by \$62,016.50).

Article 7

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to hire a **Road Foreman** to oversee and supervise roads and sand/salt shed maintenance and repairs, and to appropriate **\$9,465** from Surplus.

Salary and Payroll Taxes	Taxation	Surplus
\$8,750 + \$715 = \$9,465	\$0	\$9,465

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 3-1-0)

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$94,257 for Administration.**

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Audit	\$8,750	\$13,950
Elections	\$2,500	\$3,000
Registry of Deeds	\$2,000	\$2,200
Town Report	\$2,000	\$2,000
Supplies	\$1,950	\$1,800
TRIO Software Renewal	\$22,000	\$15,500
Repairs & Maintenance	\$8,100	\$3,800
Property & Casualty Insurance	\$9,600	\$12,400
Woker's Comp/Unemployment	\$2,230	\$2,632
Dues/Subscriptions	\$2,400	\$2,500
Postage	\$2,000	\$2,000
Security	\$2,000	\$1,500
Training/Travel	\$1,950	\$1,750
Software/Equipment/Furniture	\$3,000	\$750
Utilities	\$20,800	\$20,800
Contracted Services	\$6,000	\$6,375
Miscellaneous	\$1,300	\$1,300
TOTAL	\$98,580	\$94,257

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: If Article 6 passed, recommend that \$3,000 be removed from the contracted services line because janitorial cleaning would no longer be needed.

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$10,000 for Assessing.**

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Assessing	\$12,875	\$10,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$12,000 for Assessing/Revaluation Reserve Fund.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: AS of 12/31/2025 the Balance of the Assessing/Revaluation Reserve Fund was \$6,671.78. Projected cost approximately \$100K+/-.

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$500 for the Planning Board.**

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Planning Board	\$1,060	\$500

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 12

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$13,840 for Special Officers** in the current year.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Addressing Officer	\$500	\$500
Animal Control Officer	\$2,400	\$2,400
Code Enforcement Officer	\$7,000	\$7,750
Licensed Plumbing Inspector	Fees	Fees
SS, Medicare, PMLA	\$825	\$1,000
Travel/Mileage	\$200	\$200
Training	\$500	\$0
Miscellaneous Expense	\$500	\$500
Animal Shelter Contract	\$1,461	\$1,490
TOTAL	\$13,738	\$13,840

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$6,045 for Cemetery Maintenance.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$1,025 to supplement the three town scholarship awards** (two \$500 high school awards & a \$25 elementary award).

Recommended by the Select Board
Budget Committee recommend \$0 (vote 4-0-1)

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$84,847 for Public Safety – Fire Protection (year 3 of 3-year contract)**.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Fire Protection Contract	\$78,901	\$84,847

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: \$84,847 represents the contractual obligation that Mercer will pay 17% of the budget approved by the Town of Norridgewock to operate its municipal fire department.

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$1,750 for Public Safety - Traffic/Street Lights**.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Traffic/Street Lights	\$1,630	\$1,750

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$5,500 for Public Safety – Mercer Rescue, \$2,000** from Taxation and **\$3,500** from The Mercer Rescue Fund.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation & Reserve
Mercer Rescue	\$6,150	\$5,500

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: Rescue Director recommends a minimum of \$7,500 be maintained in the Mercer Rescue Reserve Fund. As of 12/31/2025 the balance of the Mercer Rescue Fund was \$11,068.43.

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$102,000 for Public Works – Summer Roads, \$80,000** from Taxation and **\$22,000** from the Road Maintenance Fund.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation & Road Fund
Summer Roads	\$88,990	\$102,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: As of 12/31/2025 the balance of the Road Maintenance Fund was \$117,216.55.

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$229,100 for Public Works – Winter Roads Maintenance**.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Winter Road Maintenance Cont.	\$150,000	\$191,900
Sand/Salt Shed	\$42,390	\$37,200

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: See Article #35 for expected Excise Tax revenue to reduce taxes.

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$1,400 for various Youth Leagues.**

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Youth Leagues	\$750	\$1400

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: Participation Fees went from \$20 to \$35.

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$29,825 for Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling**

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation
Recycling	\$8,500	\$6,825
Solid Waste Disposal	\$19,000	\$23,000
TOTAL	\$27,500	\$29,825

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: Budget increase allows for 5% increase in the Contract with Waste Management and 2025 budget overages.

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$12,905 for Mercer Shaw Library; \$12,005** from Taxes, **\$900** from Shaw Library Reserve Fund.

Description	2025 Budget	Taxation & Reserve
Shaw Library	\$12,493	\$12,905

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 2-1-1-0)

Information: As of 12/31/2025 the balance of the Shaw Library Reserve Fund was \$3,379.30.

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$900 from Shaw Library Book Fund for book purchases.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee

Information: As of 12/31/2025 the balance of the Shaw Library Book Donation Fund was \$12,283.45.

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$500 for Charity.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 3-1-1)

Article 25

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$2,500 for General Assistance.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$10,000 for Mercer Historical Society for Repair of the Staircase**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 27

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$50,000 for Mercer Meeting House for Repair of the Bell Tower**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 2-2-0)

Article 28

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$3,500 for North Pond Association**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 3-1-0)

Article 29

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Taxation **\$2,000 for 7 Lakes Youth Conservation Corps.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 30

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus **\$39,365 for Town's share of FEMA December 2023 (Disaster DR#4754) storm repairs.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 31

To see if the town will vote to appropriate **\$171,912 for Capital Improvement Project to complete paving on the Rome Road; \$133,600 from Surplus; \$38,312 from LRAP.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Article 32

To see if the Town will vote to designate any revenues and donations generated by the Community Center to be placed in the MCC Maintenance Fund.

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: 2025 MCC Rental Income was \$9,777.

Article 33

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$43,000 from the MCC Maintenance Fund** for the following projects:

Description	MCC Building Fund
Septic System Repair	\$1,000
Parking Lot Drainage Repair	\$4,500
Heat Pump (AC) for Town Office	\$7,500
Refinish the Gym Floor	\$15,000
Updates to Boiler System	\$9,000
Update Mini Kitchen for Public Rental	\$1000
General MCC Maintenance and Repairs	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$43,000

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: As of 12/31/2025 the balance of the MCC Maintenance Fund was \$120,922.77 (Sale of former land fill land increased fund by \$62,016.50).

Article 34

Shall an ordinance entitled "**Town of Mercer, Notification of Assessors Ordinance**" be amended?

Article 35

Shall the town vote to appropriate **\$210,000 of excise tax and General Fund Interest to lower taxes.**

Recommended by Select Board and Budget Committee (vote 4-0-1)

Information: 2025 Excise Taxes collected equaled \$185,162.27, 2025 General Fund Bank Interest equaled \$26,800.29. **Total \$211,962.56.**

Article 36

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 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.

Article 37

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following gifts, grants and funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature, and any other sources, and apply the funds to lower the commitment or benefit the town in such other ways as the Select Board deems reasonable.

Potential Revenues	
Maine Municipal Revenue Sharing	General Assistance Funds
Tree Growth Reimbursements	Veterans Exemption Funds
Homestead Exemption Funds	FEMA Reimbursements
State and Federal Grants	Civil Emergency Funds
State Aid to Education	Any Other Funds or Gifts

Article 38

To see if the Town will vote that orders made by the Municipal Officers pursuant to 23 M.R.S. § 2953 to close roads to winter maintenance, or to annul, alter or modify such orders, are and shall be a final determination.

Information – closing a road to winter maintenance is merely a temporary closing and does not discontinue the road.

Article 39

To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the “List of Continuing Articles” per attorney recommendation.

Information – Article 40 addresses items formerly in the “List of Continuing Articles” that should be taken up annually at Town Meeting.

Article 40

- A. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **100% of the refund** of Snowmobile Registrations, received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, for the improvement and maintenance of trails, on condition that those trails be open to the public, and to be used at the discretion of the Mercer Bog Riders Snowmobile Club.
- B. To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to appoint one individual from the Town of Mercer to represent the town on the Skowhegan Cal Ripken Baseball Board of Directors.
- C. To see if the town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 MRSA § 506, the amount collected not to exceed the previous year’s taxes. Interest on any prepayment will be zero percent.
- D. To see if the town will vote to allow the Town Treasurer, after Municipal Officers approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 MRSA section 944, on real estate that may be burdensome on the town.
- E. To see if the town will vote to prohibit a Municipal Officer from being an employee or an independent contractor for the Town of Mercer.
- F. To see if the town will vote to ensure that work conducted on behalf of the Town of Mercer in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1000) must have a written contract.
- G. To see if the town will vote to implement a policy that any vendor, service provider, contractor or individual shall be accountable by an itemized invoice(s) or receipt of purchase prior to approval by the Municipal Officers and payment. The authority granted herein shall continue until amended or revoked.
- H. To see if the Town will establish a non-lapsing “Legal Expenses Reserve Fund” to be used to pay for legal expenses incurred by the town; to raise and appropriate \$3000 to be deposited into the fund; and to provide the selectboard with continuing authority to spend from the account for the purposes stated above.

Information – The current balance of the Legal Expense Reserve Fund is \$8,540.43.

Given under our hands this 24th day of February, 2026.

Matthew Fortunato, 2nd Municipal Officer & Chairman

Karen Martin, 3rd Municipal Officer

A true copy of the warrant

Attest:

Jennifer A Zweig Hebert, Clerk of Mercer

Warrant Officers' Warrant

State of Maine
Somerset, ss.

By virtue of the herein warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Mercer to be assembled at the time and place, and for the purpose therein named by posting attested copies of the warrant in four (4) conspicuous places within said town, the 25th day of February 2026. The Mercer Community Center inside and out, the Shaw Library, and Christy's Store.

Warrant Officer.