

**TOWN OF WELD, MAINE  
TOWN MEETING WARRANT  
MARCH 8, 2025  
FOR ANNUAL SECRET BALLOT ELECTION - FEBRUARY 25, 2025  
AND  
OPEN MEETING - MARCH 8, 2025**

To Laureen Pratt, a resident of the Town of Weld in the County of Franklin, State of Maine.

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said Town, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 A.D. to act upon Article 1, and by secret ballot on Article 2 below; the polling hours therefore to be from 4:00 P. M. in the afternoon until 8:00 P.M. in the evening located at 17 School Street in said Town.

And to notify and warn the said inhabitants to assemble in the Town Hall located at 17 School St. in said Town on Saturday the 8th day of March, 2025 A. D. at 10:00 A. M. in the forenoon to act upon Articles 3 through 13 as set out below, to wit:

The registrar gives notice that she or her designate will be at the Town Hall at 17 School Street to register new voters at 9:30 in the forenoon of the day of the said meeting being Saturday, March 8th and to correct the check list.

Town Clerk, Carol J. Cochran swore the ballot clerks in at 3:30 PM.

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

Town Clerk, Carol J. Cochran called the meeting to order at 3:45 and asked for nominations for Moderator. There was 1 ballot cast for Thomas Skolfield. One ballot was cast for Thomas Skolfied. Tom was sworn in at 3:55 PM and at 4 PM the ballot box open.

Article 2: To elect the Municipal Officers by secret ballot.

**RESULTS**

45 residents cast their ballots for the Municipal Officers as follows:

Select Board, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor, 3 year term- Stephen Conant - 42  
Planning Board, 5 year term - Ernestine Hutchinson - 41  
Budget Committee - 3 year term - Rebecca Durant-Vining - 44  
3 year term - Barbie Castonguay - 6

At 10 AM on March 8th, Town Clerk Carol J Cochran called the meeting to order, then turned the meeting over to Thomas Skolfield, Moderator.

After the Pledge of Allegiance Mr. Skolfield gave some Historical Information on the Town Hall and this date marks 100 years of Town Meetings being held in this hall.

**Joseph E. Martin, District 19 State Senator was present to introduce himself to those present.**

**The Town Report was dedicated to Kevin and Holly Cochran of Skoolhouse Variety.**

**Tom read the names of those who passed this last year and asked for a moment of silence in their memory.**

**Article 3: To see what hourly wage or stipend the Town will vote to pay the following positions for the ensuing year.**

	<b>Present Rate:</b>	<b>Proposed Rate:</b>
Select Board - Chair	\$4,252 Stipend	\$4,358.00
Select Board	\$3,189 Stipend	\$3,269.00
Tax Collector	\$21.26 per hour	\$21.79
Town Clerk	\$21.26 per hour	\$21.79
Treasurer	\$18.07 per hour	\$18.52
Code Enforcement Officer	\$18.60 per hour	\$19.07
Ballot Clerk	\$14.35 per hour	\$14.71
Planning Board	\$478.00 Stipend	\$490.00
Animal Control Officer	\$14.62 per hour	\$16.50
Fire Chief	\$1,807 Stipend	\$3,000.00
Asst. Fire Chief	\$1,276 Stipend	\$2,000.00
Firefighter	\$17.54 per hour	\$17.98
Road Commissioner	\$25.80 per hour	\$26.45
Heavy Equipment Operator	\$20.64 per hour	\$21.16
Buildings & Grounds Attendant	\$14.62 per hour	\$16.50
Transfer Station Attendant	\$15.68 per hour	\$16.07

**Sean Minear moved that the article be accepted as written, Deborah Smith seconded the motion.**

**Richard Doughty moved to amend the article to pay the Ballot Clerk \$16.50 per hour and the Transfer Station Attendant \$16.50 per hour. Daniel Smith seconded the motion. The amendment was passed with no votes against.**

**The original article was voted in with not votes against.**

**Article 4: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to establish a non lapsing account for a town wide property re-evaluation to be started in 2027 and completed in 2028 with John E. O'Donnell and Associates.**

John O'Donnell Associates proposal: \$115 per property, \$104,880 for 912 properties.  
Work to start in Summer of 2027

**Sean Minear moved the article as written and Laureen Pratt 2nd the motion. The article was passed with no opposition.**

**Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for General Government for the ensuing year.**



**Recommended by Budget Committee and Select board:**

Raise	\$82,856
Appropriate from:	
Building Permit Fees	\$1,500
TO/PO Lease	\$32,500
Tree Growth	\$50,000
Agent Fees	\$3,500
Interest Income	\$3,000
Commitment Revenues: Boat Excise, State Park Fee Sharing, Homestead, Veterans, and State Revenue Sharing	\$91,300
	<b>\$264,656</b>

	2024 Budget	2024 Expenses	2025 Budget
<b>10 General Government</b>	<b>\$274,912.00</b>	<b>(\$277,722.57)</b>	<b>\$264,656.00</b>
<b>100 - Operations</b>	<b>\$136,141.00</b>	<b>(\$135,568.75)</b>	<b>\$150,114.00</b>
20 - Abatements	\$1,000.00	(\$1,844.18)	\$1,000.00
21 - Re-Evaluation			\$5,000.00
22 - Assessments	\$15,750.00	(\$15,750.00)	\$17,000.00
23 - Annual Audit	\$6,000.00	(\$5,995.00)	\$6,000.00
25 - AVCOG	\$2,100.00	(\$2,180.36)	\$2,263.00
28 - MMA Dues	\$2,050.00	(\$2,075.00)	\$2,100.00
30 - Computer/Copier	\$16,500.00	(\$19,782.12)	\$17,000.00
50 - Insurances	\$25,000.00	(\$24,334.50)	\$25,000.00
55 - Insur-Health	\$30,000.00	(\$31,837.51)	\$33,200.00
57 - Social Security	\$14,139.00	(\$14,034.21)	\$14,900.00
58 - Medicare	\$3,302.00	(\$3,280.89)	\$3,500.00
59 - Employer PFML			\$1,251.00
60 - Office Expense	\$3,000.00	(\$1,977.36)	\$3,000.00
62 - Legal Expense	\$10,000.00	(\$7,242.10)	\$13,000.00
70 - Mileage Reimb	\$300.00	(\$486.65)	\$400.00
71 - Misc Expense	\$100.00	\$50.64	\$100.00
72 - Current Exp	\$1,400.00	(\$1,136.25)	\$1,400.00
74 - Overpayments	\$0.00		\$0.00
80 - Supplies	\$3,500.00	(\$2,833.26)	\$3,000.00
90 - Training	\$2,000.00	(\$830.00)	\$1,000.00
<b>150 - Utilities</b>	<b>\$12,600.00</b>	<b>(\$14,366.05)</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
20 - Electric	\$2,500.00	(\$2,458.16)	\$2,500.00
25 - Street Light	\$3,600.00	(\$3,490.42)	\$3,600.00
40 - Htg Fuel	\$1,000.00	(\$3,414.63)	\$3,400.00
50 - Propane	\$2,000.00	(\$1,589.14)	\$2,000.00
60 - Phone	\$3,500.00	(\$3,413.70)	\$3,500.00
<b>200 - Payroll</b>	<b>\$91,695.00</b>	<b>(\$90,242.06)</b>	<b>\$93,566.00</b>
05 - Tax Collector	\$22,111.00	(\$21,595.95)	\$22,664.00
10 - Town Clerk	\$22,111.00	(\$22,114.87)	\$22,664.00
15 - Treasurer	\$28,174.00	(\$28,209.32)	\$28,878.00
20 - Selectboard	\$10,630.00	(\$10,630.00)	\$10,896.00
22 - Elections	\$2,683.00	(\$2,037.62)	\$2,200.00
25 - Planning Bd	\$2,374.00	(\$2,390.00)	\$2,450.00
30 - CEO	\$3,612.00	(\$3,264.30)	\$3,814.00

40 - Plumbing Insp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>250 - General Assistance</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
10 - Gen Assist	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
<b>600 - Town Bldg MN</b>	<b>\$23,000.00</b>	<b>(\$22,100.22)</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
10 - TO/PO Maint	\$1,500.00	(\$1,011.88)	\$1,500.00
20 - Town Hall Maint	\$1,000.00	(\$1,088.34)	\$1,000.00
30 - Mill St Garage	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
99 - Bldg Cap Imp	\$20,000.00	(\$20,000.00)	\$0.00
<b>850 - Social Services</b>	<b>\$10,976.00</b>	<b>(\$15,445.49)</b>	<b>\$2,476.00</b>
10 - Life Flight	\$376.00	(\$376.00)	\$376.00
20 - Safe Voices	\$100.00	(\$100.00)	\$100.00
26 - Weld Recreation	\$4,000.00	(\$8,469.49)	\$0.00
27 - Veterans Memorials	\$4,000.00	(\$4,000.00)	\$0.00
30 - Weld Free Public Library	\$2,000.00	(\$2,000.00)	\$2,000.00
37 - Tri County Mental Health	\$500.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00

Sean Minear moved to pass the article as written and Ben Hout 2nd it.

Richard Doughty moved to amend the article to pay the Ballot Clerks \$16.50 per hour. Ina Toth seconded the motion and was voted with 1 opposed. **(increase of \$254.)**

The original article was passed with no one opposed.

Article 6: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Fire Department/Public Safety for the ensuing year.

**Recommended by Budget Committee and Select board:**

Raise	\$103,746
Appropriate from:	
Franklin County	\$6,000
	<b>\$109,746</b>

	2024 Budget	2024 Expenses	2025 Budget
<b>20 - Public Safety</b>	<b>\$88,166.00</b>	<b>(\$79,825.06)</b>	<b>\$109,746.00</b>
<b>100 - Operations</b>	<b>\$22,600.00</b>	<b>(\$20,477.03)</b>	<b>\$37,100.00</b>
70 - Mileage Reim	\$100.00	(\$20.50)	\$100.00
72 - Current Exp	\$4,000.00	(\$4,793.30)	\$4,000.00
75 - Protect Gear	\$6,000.00	(\$2,237.40)	\$6,000.00
77 - Small Equip Maint	\$2,000.00	(\$990.14)	\$1,000.00
78 - Small Equip Replacement	\$3,500.00	(\$2,676.52)	\$16,000.00
80 - Supplies	\$2,000.00	(\$1,847.23)	\$2,000.00
90 - Training	\$5,000.00	(\$7,911.94)	\$8,000.00



<b>125 - Animal Control</b>	<b>\$1,603.00</b>	<b>(\$979.40)</b>	<b>\$1,428.00</b>
05 - Franklin Cty	\$903.00	(\$902.40)	\$1,128.00
10 - Equipment	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
20 - Mileage	\$300.00	(\$77.00)	\$100.00
30 - Training	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>150 - Utilities</b>	<b>\$5,750.00</b>	<b>(\$4,282.58)</b>	<b>\$4,750.00</b>
20 - Electric	\$850.00	(\$882.64)	\$850.00
50 - Propane	\$3,000.00	(\$1,702.70)	\$2,000.00
60 - Phone	\$1,200.00	(\$1,152.80)	\$1,200.00
65 - Cell Phone	\$700.00	(\$544.44)	\$700.00
<b>200 - Payroll</b>	<b>\$13,597.00</b>	<b>(\$13,108.59)</b>	<b>\$15,759.00</b>
35 - ACO	\$500.00	(\$195.53)	\$510.00
50 - Fire Chief	\$1,807.00	(\$1,807.00)	\$3,000.00
51 - Asst Fire Chief	\$1,290.00	(\$1,290.00)	\$2,000.00
55 - Firefighter	\$10,000.00	(\$9,816.06)	\$10,249.00
<b>500 - Veh &amp; Equip Maint</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>(\$17,301.55)</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
00 - Veh & Equip Maint	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
50 - PS 99 Ford	\$0.00	(\$5,054.81)	
55 - PS 84 GMC	\$0.00	(\$1,488.74)	
58 - PS 17 Ford	\$0.00	(\$10,758.00)	
59 - PS 09 Yamaha Snowmobile	\$0.00	\$0.00	
60 - PS 22 Snowmobile Trailer	\$0.00	\$0.00	
99 - PS Equip Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>550 - Fuel</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>(\$495.51)</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
05 - Diesel	\$700.00	(\$495.51)	\$700.00
06 - Gasoline	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>600 - Town Bldg Maint</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>(\$1,364.40)</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
60 - Fire Hall	\$2,000.00	(\$1,364.40)	\$2,500.00
<b>900 - Contracted Services</b>	<b>\$21,816.00</b>	<b>(\$21,816.00)</b>	<b>\$27,409.00</b>
10 - Ambulance	\$21,816.00	(\$21,816.00)	\$27,409.00

**Sean Minear moved the article as written. Patrick Lowe seconded the motion and it was passed with no opposition.**

Article 7: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Public Works for the ensuing year.

**Recommended by Budget Committee and Select board:**

Raise	\$83,829
Appropriate from:	
Excise Tax	\$100,000
Fund Balance/Surplus	\$62,000

FEMA  
LRAP  
Snow Removal Reimb

\$40,000  
\$30,000  
\$700

**\$316,529**

	2024 Budget	2024 Expense	2025 Budget
<b>31 - Public Works</b>	<b>\$543,544.00</b>	<b>(\$513,793.85)</b>	<b>\$316,529.00</b>
<b>100 - Operations</b>	<b>\$110,150.00</b>	<b>(\$84,905.49)</b>	<b>\$98,050.00</b>
55 - Insur-Health	\$50,000.00	(\$29,825.53)	\$46,400.00
70 - Mileage	\$150.00	(\$50.00)	\$150.00
72 - Current Exp	\$500.00	(\$2,953.50)	\$500.00
76 - Small Tools	\$1,200.00	(\$1,064.83)	\$1,200.00
77 - Small Equip Maint & Rpr	\$500.00	(\$111.04)	\$500.00
78 - Small Equip Replacement	\$1,500.00	(\$6,422.95)	\$5,000.00
79 - Equip Rental	\$5,000.00	(\$4,000.00)	\$1,000.00
80 - Supplies	\$2,000.00	(\$2,188.73)	\$2,000.00
82 - Salt	\$25,000.00	(\$25,549.17)	\$24,000.00
83 - Sand	\$20,000.00	(\$12,440.00)	\$15,000.00
84 - Liquid Calcium	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
86 - Gravel	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
90 - Training	\$300.00	(\$299.74)	\$300.00
<b>150 - Utilities</b>	<b>\$8,700.00</b>	<b>(\$7,385.57)</b>	<b>\$7,800.00</b>
20 - Electric	\$3,000.00	(\$2,135.32)	\$2,500.00
40 - Htg Fuel	\$3,500.00	(\$3,473.95)	\$3,500.00
60 - Phone	\$1,200.00	(\$1,231.86)	\$1,200.00
65 - Cell Phone	\$1,000.00	(\$544.44)	\$600.00
<b>200 - Payroll</b>	<b>\$112,846.00</b>	<b>(\$110,962.54)</b>	<b>\$117,081.00</b>
58 - Bldg & Grnds Attendant	\$10,114.00	(\$8,425.73)	\$11,757.00
70 - Road Commissioner	\$60,009.00	(\$52,798.81)	\$61,523.00
71 - Heavy Equip Operator	\$42,723.00	(\$49,738.00)	\$43,801.00
<b>400 - Lease Payments</b>	<b>\$13,098.00</b>	<b>(\$13,097.90)</b>	<b>\$13,098.00</b>
15 - Ford F550 Lease	\$13,098.00	(\$13,097.90)	\$13,098.00
<b>450 - FEMA Road Repair</b>	<b>\$223,250.00</b>	<b>(\$224,434.00)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
23 - 2023 Storm Damage	\$223,250.00	(\$224,434.00)	\$0.00
<b>500 - Veh &amp; Equip Maint</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>(\$37,040.46)</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
00 - Veh & Equip Maint	\$30,000.00	\$3,325.00	
06 - PW 90 Jdeere		(\$2,637.42)	
07- PW Rock Rake		(\$862.41)	
08 - PW 18 CAT		(\$6,203.94)	
11 - PW 08 Ford		(\$774.48)	
14 - PW 10 Intl		(\$2,304.58)	
15 - PW 15 Ford		(\$3,729.79)	
16 - PW 16 Intl		(\$11,376.29)	
23 - PW 21 Kubota Mower		(\$45.74)	
24 - PW 13 Stihl WW		\$0.00	



25 - PW 16 Snow Blower		\$0.00	
80 - PW Vehicle Supplies		(\$2,430.81)	
99 - PW Equip Reserve	\$10,000.00	(\$10,000.00)	
<b>550 - Fuel</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>(\$18,881.64)</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>
05 - Diesel	\$15,000.00	(\$17,246.49)	\$15,000.00
06 - Gasoline	\$2,000.00	(\$1,635.15)	\$2,000.00
<b>600 - Town Bldg Maint</b>	<b>\$16,100.00</b>	<b>(\$15,586.08)</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>
40 - Town Garage	\$1,100.00	(\$586.08)	\$1,100.00
99 - Bldg Cap Imp	\$15,000.00	(\$15,000.00)	\$0.00
<b>650 - Mowing &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$2,100.00</b>	<b>(\$1,500.17)</b>	<b>\$2,100.00</b>
05 - Supplies	\$300.00	(\$500.17)	\$300.00
20 - Tennis Court	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
25 - Cemetery Stone Rpr	\$1,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	\$1,000.00
<b>750 - Signs</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
10 - Signs	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
<b>800 - LRAP</b>	<b>\$41,000.00</b>	<b>(\$26,113.66)</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
10 - LRAP Resurface Back Rds	\$18,000.00	(\$11,113.66)	\$12,000.00
11 - Maxwell Rd Paving			\$10,000.00
12 - LRAP Kennedy Bridge	\$15,000.00	(\$15,000.00)	\$0.00
15 - LRAP ROW Maint	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00

**Ben Hout moved to pass the article as written. Laurie Pratt 2nd the motion and it was passed with no one opposed.**

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the operation of the Transfer Station/Storage Facility for the ensuing year.

**Recommended by Budget Committee and Select board:**

Raise	\$59,021
Appropriate from:	
Franklin County	\$5,000
Transfer Station Revenue	\$4,000
	<u><u>\$68,021</u></u>

	2024 Budget	2024 Expense	2025 Budget
<b>50 - Transfer Station</b>	<b>\$81,990.00</b>	<b>(\$84,014.56)</b>	<b>\$68,021.00</b>
<b>100 - Operations</b>	<b>\$48,810.00</b>	<b>(\$50,511.31)</b>	<b>\$49,310.00</b>
26 - Recycling	\$4,560.00	(\$3,420.00)	\$4,560.00
27 - Waste Disposal	\$42,000.00	(\$41,527.36)	\$42,000.00
70 - Mileage Reim	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
72 - Current Exp	\$1,000.00	(\$1,446.50)	\$1,000.00
77 - Equip Mnt	\$1,000.00	(\$3,706.34)	\$1,000.00
80 - Supplies	\$100.00	(\$411.11)	\$600.00
90 - Training	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00

<b>150 - Utilities</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>	<b>(\$1,893.01)</b>	<b>\$1,850.00</b>
20 - Electric	\$700.00	(\$881.15)	\$850.00
41 - Firewood	\$200.00	(\$200.00)	\$200.00
60 - Phone	\$800.00	(\$811.86)	\$800.00
<b>200 - Payroll</b>	<b>\$15,480.00</b>	<b>(\$15,610.24)</b>	<b>\$15,861.00</b>
60 - TS Attendants	\$15,480.00	(\$15,610.24)	\$15,861.00
<b>600 - Town Bldg Maint</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>	<b>(\$16,000.00)</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
50 - Transfer Station	\$1,000.00	(\$1,476.04)	\$1,000.00
99 - Bldg Cap Imp	\$15,000.00	(\$14,523.96)	\$0.00

**Sean Minear moved to pass the article as written. Patrick Lowe 2nd the motion. Richard Doughty amended the article to increase the hourly pay for the Transfer Station attendants to \$16.50 per hour(Increase of \$459). Patrick Lowe 2nd the motion and it was passed with no one opposing.**

**The Original motion was passed with no one opposing.**

Article 9: To see if the Town will accept an annual donation in lieu of Taxes in the amount of \$5,000 from the George and Raymond Frank Foundation (Camp Kawanhee), and utilize the funds to establish an ongoing program to provide seasonal passes to Maine State Parks for residents of the Town.

**Sean Minear moved to pass the article as written and Laurie Pratt 2nd the motion. There were a few who opposed it.**

Article 10: To see if the Town will allow private events to be held at the Weld Town Hall or the Multi-purpose Room in the Town Office/Post Office Building.

**Sean Minear moved to pass the article as written and Lisa Ravis 2nd the motion. The article passed with no opposition.**

Article 11: To see if the Town will authorize the Weld Recreation Coordinator to accept non-cash materials with a value of \$1,000 or less, and services from volunteers to assist the Weld Recreation program during 2025.

**Sean Minear moved to pass the article as written. Ina Toth 2nd the motion and it was passed with no opposition.**

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to set the due date for property taxes committed during 2025 as 60 days after the date the property tax commitment is issued by the assessors, and to set an interest rate of 7.5% per annum to be charged on delinquent balances beginning the day after the due date.

**Sean Minear moved to pass the article as written and Ina Toth 2nd the motion and it was passed with no opposition.**

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to set a date in 2026 to elect Municipal Officers and to conduct all other business.



Recommended by Select board: Election of Municipal Officers March 3rd from  
4 PM until 8 PM and March 7th at 10 AM for all  
other business

**Sean Minear moved to pass the article as written. Patrick Lowe 2nd the motion and it was passed with no opposition.**

**Patrick Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 AM. Laurie Pratt 2nd the motion and it was passed with no opposition.**

March 8, 2025 Carol J. Cochran , Town Clerk swore Ernestine Hutchinson in as Planning Board Member for a 5 year term at 9:49 AM

March 8, 2025 Carol J. Cochran, Town Clerk swore Barbara Castonguay in as a Budget Committee Member for a 3 year term at 11 AM.

March 13, 2025 Carol J. Cochran, Town Clerk swore Stephen Conant in at 10:15 AM consecutively as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a 3 year term.

**Respectfully submitted,**

  
Carol J. Cochran

  
Thomas Skolfield