

WARRANT FOR MARCH 1, 2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

To Dianna Rollins, a resident of the Town of Solon in the County of Somerset:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required by law to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the 1st day of March AD 2025 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there, in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended, to elect a moderator, and to transact all other business as enumerated in this Warrant.

For the election of officials, the polls will open immediately after the election of a Moderator and will remain open until 12:15 PM. The Clerk will open absentee ballots at 10:00 AM on March 1, 2025. The transaction of other business as enumerated in Articles 3 to 41 will begin at 1:30 PM.

Article 1: To choose a Moderator by written ballot to preside at said meeting.

Article 2: To elect by secret ballot all municipal officials and school committee members required to be elected.

Nominated Candidates:

Selectman, 3-year term:	Elaine Aloes
Road Commissioner, 1-year term:	Jeffrey Cyr
RSU # 74 School Board Director, 3-year term:	Robert Lindblom

Article 3: Shall the Town approve appropriating \$2,544.35 from the 2024 surplus to cover the shortfall in the Accounts Overage Account.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 4: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

Salaries & Benefits	\$211,760
Insurance	\$ 39,720
Town Office Utilities	\$ 5,400
Town Charges	\$ 41,660
Town Office Maintenance	\$ 2,800
Training, Books, & Dues	\$ 2,360
Elections	\$ 2,200
Accounts Overage	\$ 5,000

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$310,900 plus fees

Article 5: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC WORKS.

Winter Roads	\$149,000
Summer Roads	\$146,000

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$295,000 plus fees, income, & reimbursements.

Article 6: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for SANITATION.

Transfer Station	\$101,450
------------------	-----------

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$101,450 plus fees, income, & reimbursements.

Article 7: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for COOLIDGE LIBRARY RESERVE

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$27,600 plus reserve funds, fees, and investment income

Article 8: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$58,500 plus reimbursements & donations

Article 9: To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Fire Hydrants	\$24,900
Municipal Buildings Electric	\$ 7,000
Street Lights	\$10,000

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$41,900

Article 10: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for SOCIAL SERVICES.

General Assistance	\$15,000
KVCAP Transportation Service	\$ 750 (request \$750)
Hospice	\$ 1,000 (request \$1,000)
Spectrum Generations	\$ 788 (request \$787.50)
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$ 500 (request \$500)
Sexual Support & Crisis Center	\$ 342 (request \$342)
Solon Food Cupboard	\$ 8,000 (request \$8,000)
Lifelight Foundation	\$ 200 (request \$978)
American Red Cross	\$ 150 (request \$150)
Winslow Community Cupboard	\$ 0 (request no specific amount)
Pine Tree Society	\$ 100 (request \$100)
Lake Stewards of Maine	\$ 500 (request \$500)
National Alliance of Mental Illness	\$ 500 (request \$500)
Sweetser Mental Health	\$ 0 (request \$250)

Selectmen recommend \$27,830 and Advisory Committee recommends \$28,080 by adding \$250 for Sweetser Mental Health

Article 11: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for CODE ENFORCEMENT.

Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 7,200
911 Addressing Officer	\$ 270

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$7,470 plus fees

Article 12: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for LEISURE SERVICES.

Recreation Program Reserve	\$3,000
Recreation Facilities & Maintenance Res.	\$2,000
Swim/Camp Program Reserve	\$3,000
Special Events	\$1,000
4th of July Fireworks	\$2,200
Baker Mountain Ski Club	\$1,250

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$12,450 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

Article 13: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RESERVE.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$6,500 plus fees, donations, & reserve funds

Article 14: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the CEMETERY MAINTENANCE RESERVE.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$25,800 plus donations, fees, and investment income

Article 15: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ANIMAL WELFARE.

Animal Shelter	\$2,000
Animal Control Officer	\$3,650

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$5,650

Article 16: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for ORGANIZATION FEES.

Old Canada Road Byway	\$ 500 (requested \$500)
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments	\$1,625 (requested \$1,625)
Maine Municipal Association	\$2,393 (requested \$2,393)
Somerset Economic Development	\$ 100 (requested \$100)
KRDA/First Park	\$4,815 (requested \$4,815)
Maine Public Radio	\$ 0 (requested \$100)

Selectmen recommend \$9,433 and Advisory Committee recommends \$9,533 by adding \$100 for Maine Public Radio

Article 17: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

Road Paving Reserve Account	\$210,000
Gravel Roads Reserve	\$ 10,000
Highway Equipment Reserve	\$ 25,000
Public Works Garage Reserve	\$ 20,000
Sidewalk Repair Reserve	\$ 10,000
Transfer Station Truck & Equipment Res.	\$ 10,000
Coolidge Library Capital Reserve	\$ 3,000
Municipal Buildings Maintenance Reserve	\$ 3,500
Fire Truck Reserve	\$ 8,000
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$ 1,000

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$300,500

Article 18: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation for the RESERVE ACCOUNTS.

Municipal Buildings Heat Reserve	\$ 8,000
FD Safety Equipment Reserve	\$ 5,000
GIS Mapping Reserve	\$ 2,000
Town Line Survey Reserve	\$ 2,500
Municipal Grounds Maintenance Reserve	\$ 2,500
Web Site Fee Reserve	\$ 2,000
Town Flags Reserve	\$ 2,000
Town Records Preservation Reserve	\$ 4,500

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend \$28,500

Article 19: Shall the Town create a committee to plan events for the 250th birthday of the United States in 2026 and create a reserve fund for it and raise funds by taxation for the celebration?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and an amount of \$4,000

Article 20: Shall the Town raise an amount by taxation for the Ironbound Pond Association.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and an amount of \$3,000

Article 21: Shall the Town raise funds for a new electronic outside sign?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and raising \$10,000 by taxation and taking the balance of the cost from the Office Equipment Reserve Account

Article 22: Shall the Town pay the Selectmen, Clerk, and Deputy Clerk for field work and data entry related to the real estate revaluation from the Assessing Revaluation Reserve Fund.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 23: Shall the Town use funds from the Transfer Station Truck & Equipment Reserve Fund to purchase a glass crusher for the Transfer Station.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and using up to \$3,000

Article 24: Shall the Town approve taking the following budget overage amounts from FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement for the 2023 rain flooding events to reimburse the LRAP funds for covering those overages.

2023 Summer Roads \$98,628.98

2024 Summer Roads \$ 567.92

2024 Winter Roads \$34,873.15 total amount \$134,070.05

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 25: Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to use FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement of the 2023 rain flooding events to purchase a mulcher for Public Works.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and spending up to \$27,000

Article 26: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to use FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement of the 2023 rain flooding events to purchase a 20-ton equipment trailer for Public Works.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and spending up to \$25,000

Article 27: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to keep the 2020 Ford 1 ton pickup.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 28: Shall the Town close the Rainy Day Reserve fund and transfer the \$34,033.30 in the reserve to the Public Works Garage Reserve?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 29: Shall the Town transfer \$175,000 from FEMA's Federal Emergency Declaration reimbursement of the 2023 rain flooding events to the Public Works Garage Reserve?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 30: Shall the Town approve renovating the current Public Works garage?

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes and using the funds in the Public Works Garage Reserve to renovate the Public Works garage.

Article 31: Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend grant money for the purpose of renovating or replacing our Public Works Garage Building.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 32: Shall the town authorize the municipal officers to accept grant money available from the State government, Federal government, or other organizations for the Solon Snow Hawks Snowmobile Club and give those funds to the club along with the snow groomer personal property tax reimbursement the town receives from the state.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 33: To see if the Town will adopt the revised Foreclosed Property Ordinance:

Foreclosed Property Ordinance

The disposition of foreclosed property in the Town of Solon shall be determined at the Annual Town Meeting by the vote of the people.

The disposition options are:

1. For the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to give the owner of foreclosed property from the date of the town meeting until 4 pm on the 3rd Thursday of March, or later if another date is approved at the Annual Town Meeting, to redeem the property by paying all the back property taxes, supplemental assessments, interest, costs, fees, and penalties assessed by the town.
2. Should the owner fail to redeem the property by the date approved at the Annual Town Meeting, the Selectmen are authorized to sell and dispose of the property according to the sale procedures required by the most current state law in effect at the time of foreclosure.

Upon sale of the property back to the former owner or to a new owner the town will execute a quit-claim deed for such property.

This repeals all prior Foreclosed Property Ordinances.

Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend Yes

Article 34: To see if the Town will adopt the following amendment to the Adult Use Marijuana Cultivation Ordinance:

Section VII.

C. Pursuant to 28-B M.R.S. §402, a total of ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** Cultivation Facilities (Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3) and one (1) Nursery Cultivation Facility shall be allowed to operate at one time in Solon. No Tier 4 Cultivation Facilities are allowed in Solon. Whenever a license expires and is not renewed, or the Town declines to renew a license, other license applications may be reviewed, but the cap of licenses shall be maintained.

Selectmen recommend Yes and Budget Committee recommends No

Article 35: Shall the Town authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing and opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A Section 2953.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 36: Shall the town authorize the municipal officers to apply for, accept and expend grant money available from the State or Federal government or other organization for any public purpose when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and any needed matching funds are available within the current budget and/or reserve funds.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes

Article 37: Shall the town give the Selectmen and/or the Fire Chief permission to apply for, accept and expend any grants to purchase equipment, firefighting equipment and safety equipment for the Fire Department.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 38: Shall the town accept the following tax related articles:

1. Shall the town authorize the Tax Collector and Treasurer to apply any property tax overpayment of less than \$100 to that person's next year's property taxes.

2. Shall the town authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S A Section 506.

3. Shall the town raise and appropriate from the overlay to pay for tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year 2025.

4. Shall the town use any surplus funds in excess of \$110,000.00 to reduce taxes.

5. Shall the town authorize the Selectmen to procure a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the purpose of paying municipal indebtedness; such note to be repaid during the current fiscal year from taxes paid during the municipal year.

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 39: If the Town accepts Article 38-2, what, if any, interest shall the Town pay on these prepaid taxes? (If the Town votes to pay interest, it cannot be more than 7.5%.)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend 0%.

Article 40: Shall the town set September 19, 2025 as the date when all unpaid 2025 taxes become interest bearing at the rate to be set by the State. (Rate being 7.5%)

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes.

Article 41: Shall the town set the interest rate to be paid by the town on abated taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A

Selectmen and Advisory Committee recommend Yes and at a rate of 0%.

Given under my hand this 5th day of February A.D., 2025,

Elaine Aloes, Chair of Selectmen

Wayne Johnson, Vice Chair of Selectmen

John Dunay, Selectman

Attest true copy: Leslie Giroux, Town Clerk

Pursuant to within warrant, I have hereby notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Solon, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Solon Elementary School on the 1st day of March AD 2025 at eight o'clock in the morning then and there in accordance with the Revised Statutes of the State of Maine, 1964, Title 30, Paragraph 2051 and seq. or as amended to act on all articles herein enumerated in this warrant posted at the Solon Town Office, Solon Post Office, Solon Corner Store, and Griswold's Store, conspicuous and public places within Solon, on the 12th day of February AD 2025, which is at least seven days prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Dianna Rollins, a resident of Solon.