

The Warrant

The meeting was called to order at 1500 on Tuesday, June 10.

State of Maine

County of Hancock

To: Helene Rogan, resident of the Town of Dedham in the County of Hancock:

Greetings!

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Dedham qualified by law to vote in town affairs to assemble at the Town Meeting Room in said Town on Tuesday, the tenth day of June, AD 2025, at three o'clock in the afternoon then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below, polling hours therefore to be from eight o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock in the evening.

And, to notify and warn said residents to meet at the Dedham School in said Town on Thursday, the twelfth day of June, AD 2025, at six o'clock in the evening to act on Articles 3 through 52 as set out below, to wit:

Article 1: To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.
Karen Jellison, elected as moderator.

Article 2: To elect all Municipal Officers and School Committee members as are required to be elected.

The meeting was adjourned at 2000, to reconvene on Thursday, June 12 at 1800.

The meeting reconvened at 1803 on Thursday, June 12 in the School Gym.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the due dates for the first and second halves of 2025 property taxes on the 30th and 180th days, respectively, following the tax commitment, from and after which dates the taxes due shall be delinquent and interest thereon shall accrue at the rate of seven and one-half percent.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of seven and one-half percent interest to be paid on abated taxes.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 5: To establish maximum compensation amounts and to see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for salaries of municipal officers and employees for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

The Budget Committee recommends compensation as follows:

<i>Selectmen (3)</i>	<i>\$7,425.00</i>
<i>Chair Stipend</i>	<i>\$900.00</i>

<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	\$72,300.00
<i>Deputy Tax Collector/Deputy Treasurer</i>	\$52,000.00
<i>Town Clerk</i>	\$43,300.00
<i>Code Enforcement/Building Inspector</i>	\$24,000.00
<i>Road Commissioner</i>	<u>\$1,850.00</u>
<i>Total Recommended Compensation:</i>	<u>\$201,775.00</u>

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 6: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for taxes and benefits and general administration and town office improvements.

The Budget Committee recommends \$152,050 as follows:

Taxes and Benefits: \$85,800

General Administration & Town Office Improvements: \$66,250

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Motion to combine articles 7 through 23, seconded. Approved.

Article 7: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the Planning Board, Board of Appeals, and Comprehensive Plan Committee.

The Budget Committee recommends \$4,000

Article 8: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of the municipal audit.

The Budget Committee recommends \$9,000

Article 9: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of assessment and valuation services.

The Budget Committee recommends \$15,000

Article 10: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the Dedham Fire Department.

The Selectmen recommend \$755,080

Article 11: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of emergency management and preparedness.

The Budget Committee recommends \$3,500

Article 12: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of animal control costs.

The Budget Committee recommends \$6,500

Article 13: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of liability insurance and MMA Risk Pool.

The Budget Committee recommends \$13,000

Article 14: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purposes of roads and bridges, winter road maintenance, road signs, and street lights.

The Budget Committee recommends \$505,612 as follows:

*Roads and Bridges: \$170,000 Winter Road Maintenance: \$270,112
Winter Maintenance Supplies: \$60,000 Road Signs: \$1,500 Lights: \$4,000*

Article 15: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of paving.

The Budget Committee recommends \$50,000

Article 16: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of care and maintenance of the cemeteries.

The Budget Committee recommends \$12,000

Article 17: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of solid waste management.

The Budget Committee recommends \$137,000 as follows:

*Trash Disposal: \$36,000 Trash Collection: \$81,900 Bulky Waste Disposal: \$17,000
Maine Waste Contract: \$600 Household Hazardous/Universal Waste: \$1,500*

Article 18: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of service and charitable organizations, the Joint Recreation Program, and community recreation.

The Budget Committee recommends \$13,022 as follows:

Service/Charitable Organizations: \$1,700 Joint Rec: \$10,122 Community Rec: \$1,200

Article 19: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of the General Assistance program.

The Budget Committee recommends \$2,000

Article 20: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for reserve accounts.

The Budget Committee recommends \$75,500 as follows:

*Bridge Rebuild/Repair: \$10,000 Capital Improvements: \$29,500 Cemetery: \$1,000
Fire Department: \$25,000 Public Works Reserve: \$10,000*

Article 21: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of repayment of debt service associated with the Road Project loan and Green Lake Bridge replacement.

The Budget Committee recommends \$250,761 as follows:

Road Project Loan: \$179,561 Green Lake Bridge Loan: \$71,200

Article 22: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of repayment of debt service associated with the Fire Station Addition.

The Budget Committee recommends \$12,580

Article 23: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to appropriate for the purpose of the Hancock County tax.

The Budget Committee recommends \$218,009

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$60,000 for the purpose of matching Lucerne funds to improve and maintain the dam on Phillips Lake.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Short-Term Rental Ordinance.

The Planning Board recommends approval

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Food Sovereignty Ordinance.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to change the Road Commissioner role from an elected three-year term to an appointed term following the current election term, which would end at Town Meeting in June 2028, or upon resignation of the official elected at the 2025 Town Meeting.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to allow the use of town equipment (including contractors) on the private portion of Lakeview Avenue, and share equally the cost to do so with the Village of Lucerne, for the purpose of fire and police protection pursuant to MRS Title 23, §3105-A for the fiscal year 2025/2026. Amount not to exceed \$5,000.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector/Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506.

The Selectmen recommend approval

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to carry forward unexpended funds from FY 2023/2024.

The Selectmen recommend approval

Motion to amend the article to read "... FY 2024/2025," seconded. Approved.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of Town-owned personal property with a value of \$25,000 or less as deemed in the best interest of the Town.

The Selectmen recommend approval

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into contracts as deemed in the best interest of the Town.

The Selectmen recommend approval
Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of tax acquired property as deemed in the best interest of the Town.

The Selectmen recommend approval
Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept gifts of money and personal and real property and to appropriate the use of same as deemed in the best interest of the Town.

The Selectmen recommend approval
Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend the categories of funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature: Municipal Revenue Sharing; Local Road Assistance; Homestead Exemption; Veterans Exemption; Tree Growth Exemption; Other Local, State, or Federal Funds or Grants; Civil Emergency Funds.

The Selectmen recommend approval
Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$75,000 for the purpose of paving the parking lot and sidewalks in front of the school and Town Office.

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to approve the total operating budget of \$315,375 for Adult Education at the United Technologies Center (UTC) and appropriate \$1,800 as the local share.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 38: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

The School Committee recommends \$2,647,353
Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 39: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

The School Committee recommends \$877,849
Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 40: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education (Shall the Regional Vocational Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 be approved in the amount of \$3,588,937 (Dedham's share is \$0).

The School Committee recommends \$0
Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 41: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.

The School Committee recommends \$47,138

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 42: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.

The School Committee recommends \$180,360

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 43: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for System Administration.

The School Committee recommends \$136,279

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 44: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for School Administration.

The School Committee recommends \$182,152

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 45: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.

The School Committee recommends \$189,328

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 46: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

The School Committee recommends \$447,928

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 47: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for Debt Service.

The School Committee recommends \$39,241

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 48: To see what sum of money the Town will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.

The School Committee recommends \$40,000

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 49: To see what sum of money the Town will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

The School Committee recommends \$2,225,585

Explanation: The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 50: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate (**Recommend \$1,311,505**) in additional local funds. The state's funding model does not fully support all of the costs to operate schools because it includes only those costs that are considered "essential" by the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model. For example, EPS does not adequately support current co- and extra-curricular activities or food service. Our pupil/teacher ratio is lower than EPS's recommendations due to small class sizes. In addition, EPS allocation from state per secondary student is \$8,835. Cost for Brewer High School is approximately \$11,600.91 and John Bapst High School is \$14,784.88. Secondary school tuition paying system (Have to budget additional students) Limited EPS reimbursement for co-curricular expenses (10%).

The School Committee recommends \$1,311,505

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act that will help achieve the municipal budget for educational programs.

THIS ARTICLE MUST BE VOTED ON BY WRITTEN BALLOT

Moved, seconded.

Yes: 22 No: 3 Blank: 2

Approved.

Article 51: To see if the Town will vote to accept and authorize the School Committee to expend any and all categories of funds as provided by the Maine State Legislature or the United States Congress.

The School Committee recommends approval

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Article 52: To see what sum of money the Town will authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 from the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

The School Committee recommends \$4,787,628

Explanation: This is a summary article to approve expenditures. The amount recommended is the gross budget of the Dedham School Department. This article does not provide money unless the previous articles are approved.

Moved, seconded. Approved.

Motion to adjourn at 1842, seconded. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle C. Fish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Michelle C. Fish
Deputy Town Clerk**