

**Results of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting
March 15, 2025**

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Cranberry Isles Congregational Church on Great Cranberry Island. There were 65 voters in attendance. Benjamin Sumner, Deputy Town Clerk opened the meeting at 9:00am.

The Articles were voted on as follows:

1. To elect by ballot a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Barbara Fernald nominated Cory Duggan. No other nominations.
12 votes cast, 11 votes Cory Duggan, 1 spoiled ballot

2. To elect by ballot a Town Clerk for the ensuing year and to vote compensation.

Phil Whitney nominated Benjamin Sumner.
24 votes cast, 24 votes Benjamin Sumner

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the compensation for the year at \$8,000, 2nd by Tammy Palmer.
Unanimous vote to approve.

3. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will approve the use of the Maine Municipal Association's recommended Maine Moderator's Manual "Rules of Procedures" for the conduct of this Town Meeting.

Katelyn Damon motioned to approve, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.
Unanimous vote to approve.

4. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will approve opening the floor of this Town Meeting to all non-registered persons for the purpose of discussion only on each of the following articles of this 2025 warrant.

Barbara Meyers motioned to approve, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.
Unanimous vote to approve.

5. To elect by ballot a Select Board member for the term of three years.

Jonathan Bennett nominated January Bennett.

Phil Whitney nominated Ingrid Gaither.

Bruce Fernald nominated George Dickson.

61 votes cast, 26 votes January Bennett, 23 votes Ingrid Gaither, 12 votes George Dickson. No candidate received a majority of votes and no election was declared.

62 votes cast, 31 votes for Ingrid Gaither, 30 votes for January Bennett, 1 vote for George Dickson.

6. To elect by ballot a Select Board member to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Amanda Bracy for a term to expire March 14, 2026.

Ingrid Gaither nominated January Bennett.

Tammy Palmer nominated George Dickson.

61 votes cast, 34 votes January Bennett, 26 votes George Dickson, 1 spoiled ballot.

7. To vote compensation for all Select Board members for the ensuing year.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set compensation at \$8,000 for the Select board Chair, 2nd by Jonathan Bennett.

Unanimous vote to approve.

Bruce Fernald motioned to set compensation at \$7,500 for other Select Board Members, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.

Unanimous vote to approve.

8. To elect by ballot a Town Treasurer for the ensuing year and to vote compensation.

Barbara Fernald nominated Benjamin Sumner.

31 votes cast, 30 votes Benjamin Sumner, 1 spoiled ballot.

Bruce Fernald motioned to set the compensation for the year at \$11,000, 2nd by Nanette Hadlock.

Unanimous vote to approve.

9. To elect by ballot a Collector of Taxes and Collector of Excise Taxes for the ensuing year and to vote compensation.

Bruce Fernald nominated Benjamin Sumner.
21 votes cast, 21 votes Benjamin Sumner.

Evelyn Boxley-Bunker motioned to set the compensation for the year at \$29,000, 2nd by Bruce Fernald.
Unanimous vote to approve.

10. To elect by ballot a member of the Superintending School Committee for a term of three years.

Tammy Palmer nominated Jamie Thompson.
Serena Spurling nominated Amy Palmer. Amy Palmer declined nomination.

34 votes cast, 32 votes Jamie Thompson, 1 spoiled ballot.

11. To vote the hourly rate of pay for Town Officials and Employees

Jonathan Bennett motioned to set compensation at \$18 to \$35, 2nd by Nanette Hadlock.
Unanimous vote to approve.

12. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to collect interest at the rate of seven and one-half percent (7.5%) APR on all 2025 taxes not paid by December 1, 2025. Municipalities may, by vote, determine the rate of interest that shall apply to taxes that become delinquent during taxable year 2025 until those taxes are paid in full. The maximum rate of interest that can be charged per Title 36, MRSA §505.4 is seven and one-half percent (7.5%) APR.

Barbara Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Bruce Fernald.
Majority vote to approve, 2 votes to oppose.

13. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to allow a two percent (2%) discount on all taxes which are paid in full within thirty (30) days of the date shown on the original bill as submitted by the Tax Collector.

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve, 2nd by Bruce Fernald.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend funds in January 2026, February 2026, and March 2026 equal in aggregate to three twelfths (3/12ths) of the Operator's Budget approved for the Year 2025. This authorization will permit the Treasurer to prepare Financial Warrants for approval by the Select Board, prepare checks, and legally pay bills pending approval of the entire Operations Budget by the Voters in March 2026.

Barbara Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Tammy Palmer.
Unanimous vote to approve.

SCHOOLS (15A – 15R)

- 15A. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Regular Instruction for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$398,107, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

- 15B. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Special Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Amy Palmer motioned to set the sum at \$132,862, 2nd by Cari Alley.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

- 15C. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$0, 2nd by Amy Palmer.
Unanimous vote to approve.

- 15D. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Other Instruction for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$12,730, 2nd by Whit Chaplin.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

- 15E. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Student & Staff Support for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$34,169, 2nd by Cari Alley.
Majority vote to approve, 2 votes to oppose.

15F. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for System Administration for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Hannah Folsom motioned to set the sum at \$27,691, 2nd by Amy Palmer.
Majority vote to approve, 2 votes to oppose.

15G. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for School Administration for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Amy Palmer motioned to set the sum at \$71,253, 2nd by Cari Alley.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

15H. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Transportation & Buses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$58,100, 2nd by Amy Palmer.
Unanimous vote to approve.

15I. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Jonathan Bennett motioned to set the sum at \$227,719, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.
Unanimous vote to approve.

15J. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$0, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.
Unanimous vote to approve.

15K. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Hannah Folsom motioned to set the sum at \$0, 2nd by Amy Palmer.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Articles 15A – 15K authorize a total budget of \$962,631

- 15L. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (Recommend \$272,981) and to see what sum the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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 for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

January Bennett motioned to set the sum at \$222,949, 2nd by Amy Palmer.

Hand Count vote: 44 Yes, 0 No.

- 15M. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state-funded school construction projects, non-state funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Town of Cranberry Isles' contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Bruce Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$0, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.

Hand Count vote: 32 Yes, 0 No.

- 15N. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will raise and appropriate in additional local funds for school purposes (Recommend: \$464,194) for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (Recommend: \$464,194) as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee.

The School Committee recommends \$464,194 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$464,194: The State funding model underestimates the actual costs to fully fund the 2025-2026 budget.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$464,194, 2nd by Amy Palmer.

38 votes cast, 34 votes Yes, 4 votes No.

Articles 15L, 15M & 15N raise a total town appropriation of \$687,143

- 15O. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from 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.

Amy Palmer motioned to set the sum at \$962,361, 2nd by Cari Alley.
Hand Count vote: 28 Yes, 2 No.

- 15P. In addition to the amount in Articles 15A – 15O, shall the School Committee be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year 2025-2026 for school purposes provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Amy Palmer motioned to set the sum at \$30,802, 2nd by Cari Alley.
Hand Count vote: 21 Yes, 0 No.

- 15Q. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will authorize the school committee to have the Ashley Bryan School remain open for the 2025-2026 school year with an unknown projected enrollment.

Cari Alley motioned to approve, 2nd by Amy Palmer.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

- 15R. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will authorize the school committee to have the Longfellow School remain open for the 2025-2026 school year with a projected enrollment of approximately six students.

Cari Alley motioned to approve, 2nd by Amy Palmer.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

16. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to borrow an amount up to three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) to rebuild the Islesford Town Garage & Transfer Station, and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Jonathan Bennett motioned to approve, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.

Barbara Meyers motions to amend the article to replace “rebuild” with “to do preliminary design and engineering work”, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.

3 votes to approve, majority vote to oppose amendment.

Majority vote to approve the article as written, 1 vote to oppose.

17. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to borrow an amount up to three hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$275,000.00) for paving of roads on Little Cranberry and Great Cranberry Islands and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Jonathan Bennett motioned to approve, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.

Unanimous vote to approve.

18. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) to rebuild the Town parking lot on Great Cranberry Island, and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Bruce Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Joanne Thormann.

Majority vote to approve. 4 votes to oppose.

19. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate and expend up to thirty-six thousand five hundred dollars (\$36,500.00) per year for a 3-year contract for the care and maintenance of floats and gangways owned by the Town of Cranberry Isles and located within the Town of Cranberry Isles, and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Bruce Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Tammy Palmer.

Unanimous vote to approve.

20. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate and expend up to twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500.00) per year for a 3-year contract for the care and maintenance of floats and gangways owned by the Town of Cranberry Isles located in Manset, and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

George Dixon motioned to approve, 2nd by Tammy Palmer.
Unanimous vote to approve.

21. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate up to forty-eight thousand dollars (\$48,000.00) to rebuild the boardwalk on Sutton Island, and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Jeri Spurling motioned to approve, 2nd by Joanne Thormann.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

Barbara Fernald motioned to take a lunch break until 1:00pm, 2nd by Joanne Thormann.
Unanimous vote to approve.

22. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate up to seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) for a new metal roof for the Great Cranberry Island firehouse, and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Nate Philbrook motioned to approve, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.
Unanimous vote to approve.

23. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Cranberry Isles Select Board and other Municipal Boards and Committees to attend official meetings remotely, when necessary, pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 1, §403-B.

Tammy Palmer motioned to approve, 2nd by Katelyn Damon.
Unanimous vote to approve.

24. Shall an ordinance entitled Town of Cranberry Isles Harbor Ordinance, March 15, 2025, be enacted?

Barbara Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Joanne Thormann.
Unanimous vote to approve.

25. Shall an ordinance entitled Town of Cranberry Isles Parking Ordinance, March 15, 2025, be enacted?

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve, 2nd by George Dickson.
Unanimous vote to approve.

26. Shall an ordinance entitled Land Use and Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, March 15, 2025, be enacted?

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.
Unanimous vote to approve.

27. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate up to seventy-five thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$75,250.00) to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Barbara Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Joanne Thormann.
Unanimous vote to approve.

28. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate up to twenty-two-thousand dollars (\$22,000.00) to purchase two (2) additional Tesla Power Wall Expansion Batteries for the Town Office solar power system, and to further authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions to award and execute contracts on behalf of the Town, expend funds, and perform any other actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve, 2nd by Sophia Caldwell.
Majority vote to approve, 3 votes to oppose.

29. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to enter a twelve (12) month lease agreement in 2025 with Chelsea Holdings, LLC for use of land on Joy Road in Northeast Harbor, Maine, for parking for residents of, and visitors to, the Cranberry Isles.

Barbara Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Beverly Sanborn.
Unanimous vote to approve.

30. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to move a sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) from a reserve account for the Islesford Neighborhood House to the Town's General Fund and authorize the Municipal Officers to take all necessary actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.
Unanimous vote to approve.

31. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept and expend on behalf of the Town additional state, federal and other funds (including gifts and grants, as well as funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act and similar legislation) received during the fiscal year 2025 for Town purposes, provided that such additional funds do not require expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated.

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve, 2nd by Sophia Caldwell.
Unanimous vote to approve.

32. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to hold the next annual Town Meeting in 2026, on 14, March 2026 at the Islesford Neighborhood House, Little Cranberry Island, Maine and to open the meeting at 8:30 A.M.

Bruce Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Kelly Dickson.
Unanimous vote to approve.

33. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to raise and appropriate for each function of Town operations as shown in the Operations Budget. Each function shall be voted upon separately.

Department 51: General Government \$472,855

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve, 2nd by Tammy Palmer.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Department 52: Public Safety \$163,470

Barbara Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Sophia Caldwell.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Department 53: Health & Sanitation \$280,180

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by Jonathan Bennett.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Department 54: Public Transportation \$835,520

Hannah Folsom motioned to approve, 2nd by George Dickson.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Department 55: Schools \$962,631

Bruce Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Evelyn Boxley-Bunker.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Department 56: Donations \$35,250

Tammy Palmer motioned to approve, 2nd by Jonathan Bennett.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

Department 57: Debt Service \$382,776

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve, 2nd by Sophia Caldwell.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Department 58: Municipal Facilities \$514,657

Jonathan Bennett motioned to approve, 2nd by Joanne Thormann.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Total Appropriations for Town Operations \$3,371,851

Total Operations Budget

 Estimated General Funds Receipts \$338,560

 School Department (State Subsidies & Misc) \$275,488

 Commuter Service Subsidy \$25,000

 Community Resilience Grant \$55,250

 Loans \$510,978

 Reserve Funds \$129,022

 Property Taxes (2025) \$1,908,531

 Total \$3,371,851

Joanne Thormann motioned to approve total 2025 budget, 2nd by Paul Thormann.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Barbara Fernald motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:20pm, 2nd by Joanne Thormann.
Unanimous vote to adjourn.