

**Results of the 2026 Annual Town Meeting
March 14, 2026**

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Islesford Neighborhood House on Little Cranberry Island. There were 51 voters in attendance. Benjamin Sumner, Town Clerk opened the meeting at 8:30am.

The Articles were voted on as follows:

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

Sophia Caldwell nominated Barbara Caldwell-Pease. No other nominations.
6 votes cast, 6 votes Barbara Caldwell-Pease

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

Sophia Caldwell nominated Benjamin Sumner.
14 votes cast, 14 votes Benjamin Sumner

Cari Alley motioned to set the compensation for the year at \$8,500, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.
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.

Cari Alley motioned to approve, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
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.

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

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

Cari Alley nominated January Bennett.
Nanette Hadlock nominated George Dickson. George Dickson declined.

12 votes cast, 12 votes January Bennett

6. 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 Cari Alley.

Unanimous vote to approve.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set compensation at \$7,500 for other Select Board Members, 2nd by Cari Alley.

Unanimous vote to approve.

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

Cari Alley nominated Benjamin Sumner.

9 votes cast, 9 votes Benjamin Sumner

Bruce Fernald motioned to set the compensation for the year at \$11,500, 2nd by Cari Alley.

Unanimous vote to approve.

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

Barbara Fernald nominated Benjamin Sumner.

8 votes cast, 8 votes Benjamin Sumner.

Cari Alley motioned to set the compensation for the year at \$30,000, 2nd by Sophia Caldwell.

Unanimous vote to approve.

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

Cari Alley nominated Hannah Folsom.

14 votes cast, 14 votes Hannah Folsom

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

Bruce Fernald motioned to set compensation at \$20 to \$40, 2nd by Barbara Meyers.

Unanimous vote to approve.

11. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to collect interest at the rate of seven percent (7.0%) APR on all 2026 taxes not paid by December 1, 2026. Municipalities may, by vote, determine the rate of interest that shall apply to taxes that become delinquent during taxable year 2026 until those taxes are paid in full. The maximum rate of interest that can be charged per Title 36, MRSA §505.4 is seven percent (7.0%) APR.

Cari Alley motioned to approve, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
Unanimous vote to approve.

12. 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.

Jeffrey Pease motioned to approve, 2nd by Bruce Fernald.
Unanimous vote to approve.

13. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend funds in January 2027, February 2027, and March 2027 equal in aggregate to three twelfths (3/12ths) of the Operator's Budget approved for the Year 2026. 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 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to approve, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
Unanimous vote to approve.

SCHOOLS (14A – 14R)

- 14A. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Regular Instruction for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$370,186, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

- 14B. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Special Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$118,764, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
Unanimous vote to approve.

- 14C. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$0, 2nd by Ingrid Gaither.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14D. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Other Instruction for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$12,530, 2nd by Sophia Caldwell.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14E. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Student & Staff Support for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$32,722, 2nd by Sophia Caldwell.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14F. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for System Administration for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$29,316, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14G. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for School Administration for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Barbara Fernald motioned to set the sum at \$74,510, 2nd by Cari Alley.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14H. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Transportation & Buses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$46,500, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14I. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$230,688, 2nd by Amy Gifford.
Majority vote to approve, 1 vote to oppose.

14J. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$0, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14K. To see what sum the School Committee is authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$0, 2nd by Kelly Dickson.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Articles 14A – 14K authorize a total budget of \$915,266

14L. 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 \$250,733) 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, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$201,840, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.
Hand Count vote: 29 Yes, 0 No.

14M. 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, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$0, 2nd by Jeri Spurling.
Hand Count vote: 22 Yes, 0 No.

14N. To see what sum the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will raise and appropriate in additional local funds for school purposes (Recommend: \$479,888) for the period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (Recommend: \$479,888) as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee.

The School Committee recommends \$479,888 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$479,888: The State funding model underestimates the actual costs to fully fund the 2026-2027 budget.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$479,888, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.
17 votes cast, 16 votes Yes, 1 vote No.

Articles 15L, 15M & 15N raise a total town appropriation of \$681,728

14O. 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, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 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.

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$915,266, 2nd by Sophia Caldwell.
Hand Count vote: 25 Yes, 0 No.

14P. In addition to the amount in Articles 14A – 14O, 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 2026-2027 for school purposes provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Cari Alley motioned to set the sum at \$29,141, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14Q. 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 2026-2027 school year with an unknown projected enrollment.

Cari Alley motioned to approve, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
Unanimous vote to approve.

14R. 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 2026-2027 school year with a projected enrollment of approximately six students.

Hannah Folsom motioned to approve, 2nd by Nanette Hadlock.
Unanimous vote to approve.

15. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to borrow an amount up to two hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$260,000.00) for paving of Maple Avenue on Little Cranberry Island and Cranberry Road 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.

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by Cari Alley.
Unanimous vote to approve.

16. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) to purchase a new gangway for the GCI winter float, 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 actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by George Dickson.
Unanimous vote to approve.

17. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate up to ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to purchase an ADA accessible float bridge for 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 actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Sophia Caldwell 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 fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for a new 20'x30' float for 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 actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

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

19. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate up to sixty seven-thousand four hundred dollars (\$67,400.00) to create a dredging plan for the Sutton Island Town Dock, 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 actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Joseph Connell motioned to approve, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.
Majority vote to approve, 4 votes to oppose.

20. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Offices to appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to fund 50% of the cost for an Island Fellow for two years, starting in 2026, to assist the Cranberry Isles Solar Association and provide other work for 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 actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Hannah Folsom motioned to approve, 2nd by Barbara Fernald.
Majority vote to approve, 3 votes to oppose.

21. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate and expend seventy-seven thousand one hundred and seventy-nine dollars (\$77,179.00), for the first year, and to enter into a three (3) year contract to continue the Cranberry Isles Winter Commuter Ferry Service, a portion of which will be partially funded by Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) grant money, 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 actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Contract duration: October 15, 2026, through April 30, 2029:

Season 1 2026/2027	\$77,179.00
Season 2 2027/2028	\$81,038.00
<u>Season 3 2028/2029</u>	<u>\$85,090.00</u>
Total 3-year contract:	\$243,307.00

Barbara Fernald motioned to approve, 2nd by Jeffrey Pease.
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 and expend thirty eight-thousand five hundred and dollars (\$38,500.00), for the first year, and to enter into a three (3) year contract to continue the Cranberry Isles Summer Commuter Ferry Service, a portion of which will be partially funded by Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) grant money, 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 actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Contract duration: May 1, 2026, through October 14, 2028:

Season 1 2026	\$38,500.00
Season 2 2027	\$40,500.00
<u>Season 3 2028</u>	<u>\$42,500.00</u>
Total 3-year contract:	\$121,500.00

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by Hannah Folsom.
Unanimous vote to approve.

23. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to appropriate and expend twenty five-thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), for the first year, and to enter into a three (3) year contract for plowing and sanding of roads 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 actions required to fulfill the purpose of this article.

Contract duration: November 1, 2026, through April 15, 2029:

Season 1 2026/2027	\$25,000.00
Season 2 2027/2028	\$27,000.00
<u>Season 3 2028/2029</u>	<u>\$29,000.00</u>
Total 3-year contract:	\$81,000.00

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

24. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles shall establish a Broadband System Reserve fund under the provisions of section 5801(3) of Title 30-A for future facilities maintenance projects or unanticipated or unusual facilities maintenance costs, and transfer any unexpended amounts budgeted annually for that purpose.

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by Richard Alley.
Unanimous vote to approve.

25. 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 2026 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.

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by George Dickson.
Unanimous vote to approve.

26. 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 received during the fiscal year 2026 for Town purposes, provided that such additional funds do not require expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated.

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

Benjamin Sumner motioned to take a lunch break until 12:30pm, 2nd by James Amuso.
Unanimous vote to approve.

27. To see if the voters of the Town of Cranberry Isles will vote to hold the next annual Town Meeting in 2027, on 13, March 2027 at the Congregational Church of Cranberry Isles, Great Cranberry Island, Maine and to open the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by Richard Alley.
Unanimous vote to approve.

28. 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 \$421,250

Hannah Folsom motioned to approve, 2nd by Nanette Hadlock.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Department 52: Public Safety \$121,500

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by Nanette Hadlock.
Unanimous vote to approve.

Department 53: Health & Sanitation \$290,590

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

Department 54: Public Transportation \$475,800

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

Department 55: Schools \$915,266

Sophia Caldwell motioned to approve, 2nd by Amy Gifford.
Majority vote to approve. 1 vote to oppose.

Department 56: Donations \$36,250

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

Department 57: Debt Service \$494,076

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

