

2024 New Boston Deliberative Meeting Notes
Monday February 5th 2024 at 6:00pm

Lee Nyquist, LN (moderator) opens the meeting.

Lee Nyquist Approaches the podium.

Lee Nyquist states: “We are here to consider articles in town warrant 6-30” and informs the public where to access the Warrants and how to view them. LN discusses the dates/times of upcoming elections and introduces himself. Lee recognizes Woody Woodland, Church Of New Boston. Woody approaches the podium, speaks to the crowd and blesses the meeting. The crowd completes “the pledge of allegiance” and Lee introduces everyone at the tables in front of the crowd.

Lee Nyquist LN- Moderator
Jennifer Allocca JA- Finance Director
Madeline Osborne MO- Legal
Michael Courtney MC- Legal
Donna Mombourquette DM- Selectboard
Kary Jenks KJ- Selectboard
Bill McFadden BM- Selectboard
Jennifer Brezniak - Minutes

After introductions, Lee Nyquist explains the “V” card to the crowd and how the voice vote works. He discusses how everyone has the ability to restrict consideration and goes over the basics; Once the debate has begun on a warrant article anyone is welcome to participate in debate. You must be acknowledged by Lee and then you may approach the podium. Anyone wishing to debate must introduce themselves by stating their full name and legal address. Lee states that while you may make amendments they must be done in writing. Once you have written said amendment you are instructed to bring written amendments to Jennifer Brezniak (deputy town clerk and Minutes) otherwise it will not be considered. Articles may be moved forward at any time by request. “It is very important to be civil, kind and respectful at the meeting tonight”, says Lee. “Are there any questions or comments?” There are none.

Donna Mombourquette (selectboard member) Introduces Deliberative slideshow to the crowd. DM greets the crowd and thanks them for attending. The town budget is presented and DM explains to voters the budget process. The budget process begins with department managers developing their budgets in September and working with their assigned liaisons throughout the month of October. DM explains that we have been operating on a default budget this year and how we have actively assigned liaisons to help departments with accountability and management of funds. DM informs everyone that a formal public review by the finance committee began in November and the finance committee gave its recommendations for budget adjustments. In December / January selectboard liaisons worked with dept. managers to make budget adjustments ahead of the Public Budget Hearing held in January.

Donna introduces Jennifer Allocca, finance director.

JA greets the crowd and thanks them for coming. “What makes up your 2023 tax bill” graph is presented to crowd. It reads as follows, 65.3% in Schools, 7.2% state education, 5.1% county, and town 22.5%,. JA reviews the tax rate and uses a graph to break it down for voters. The total tax rate is \$20.35 and is broken down as follows: \$13.28 Local School, \$4.58 Town, \$1.46 State School and \$1.03 County. JA shows a slide that depicts actual property taxes paid and how there has been a \$276.00 increase over the course of 12 years for the particular home mentioned show as an example. JA presents a graph showing town operating budget vs US CPI, US COLA and NE CPI. After the presentation of graphs JA presents the new 2024 Town Operating Budget which is \$6,531,390. JA presents a slide that breaks down actually costs, credits and revenues:
—veterans credit \$179,500,

- estimated town revenue of 1\$,986,020.
- Estimated State/other revenue \$433,957
- Amount to be raised by taxation \$4,290,913

JA explains that the revenue number will likely increase and with all factors included the estimated tax impact is \$4.52 / \$1,000. JA presents a graph titled 2024 Proposed Operating Budget Allocation By Services. The percentages are as follows: General Gov. 32%, Highway & Streets 27%, Police 19%, Culture & Rec 7%, Transfer Landfill 6%, Fire 6%, Other public safety 2% and finally Health & Welfare 1%.

JA continues to explain further the breakdown of taxes and where each dollar goes. JA approaches the subject of contracts within the operating budget; Transfer Station tipping contract, Goffstown police & fire dispatch just to name a few.

JA explains and breaks down the special/individual warrant articles that will be on the ballot. She points out that if everything passes it is approx \$1.71 per household per \$1,000.00. JA presents the 2023/2024 budget comparison and JA emphasizes that these are just generalized, rough, estimated costs that she believes are on the conservative side and likely higher than the reality. If the 2024 budget is passed it increases individuals taxes by \$0.25/ 1000. JA states that New Boston's population has grown from 6,108 from 5,320 in the past 10 years which equals 788 new residents. In the last 6 years, 97 new homes have been built which has impacted the town in various ways. JA at this point, continues to review the Special warrant articles and gives an overview of what we will be discussing this evening. JA presents highlights of what happened in 2023 around town. She shows photos of the police department addition, the new forklift purchased by the Transfer Station, (2) new dump trucks for the DPW, the ambulance that was purchased (A1) and finally an update of the GIS mapping system that we voted on phase 1 of last year. JA turns the mic over to Donna Momborquette DM (select board member).

DM opens a Q&A session where citizens can ask questions to department managers, many of whom are present. DM emphasizes A lot of work done this year between dept. managers, select board members and the finance committee. She stresses they have reviewed where we as a town can be more efficient, especially coming out of default budget, what can be done etc. DM expressed that she believes this budget represents the most efficient use of taxpayer money and will allow the town to deliver services we all deserve. At this time, DM asks if there are questions for department managers and invites people to approach the podium. No-one approaches.

Lee Nyquist (moderator) approaches.

Lee approaches the podiums and mentions how excellent the budget presentation was.
"We will begin with article 6."

Article 6:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an **Operating Budget**, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Six Million Five Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$6,531,390)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Five Million Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars (\$5,827,326)**, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of New Boston or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

LN reads the explanation of the warrant. LN recognized Donna to make a motion. DM moves and Bill McFadden seconds the motion. DM is asked to speak in favor of her motion. DM states "The operating budget includes routine, and for the most part, recurring expenses related to staffing (including salaries and benefits), supplies, utilities, vehicles, maintenance, repairs, and the like required for the day-to-day operation of Town departments."

LN asks if there is further discussion. No-one motions from crowd, The crowd says I, no-one says nay. Article 6 is moved to the March ballot.

Bill McFadden (BM) makes a motion to discuss article 22 to be considered at this time. Donna seconds. No-one opposes. We move to article 22. (see article 22)

Article 7:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Hundred Eighty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$489,212)**, for the purpose of funding **Per Diem Fire Department staffing**. All funding for the continuation of the Per Diem Program is included in this warrant article, there is no funding in the proposed 2024 Operating Budget, Warrant Article #06. If approved, this appropriation will be included in the following year's Operating Budget and Default Budget.

LN approaches article 7. LN reads article 7. LN recognizes DM to move motion to warrant, LN recognizes BM to second.

Brian Dubrieul, of The New Boston Fire Department, approaches the podium to do a brief presentation. BD explains how important per diem coverage is and how great of an impact it has had on the town. BD stresses that when someone requests help from NBFD they need professional help, fast and a per diem program offers them just that. BD also stresses that services must be available to residents 24/7 throughout the year and the average services provided by NBFD require a MINIMUM of 2- 3 personnel and up to 10-20 depending on the type of emergency. BD states that NBFD missed 25, 911 calls between June and November of 2022. DB also reminds voters that this is not a new program to New Boston as voters agreed to this program last year on a scheduled basis. BD notes the 5 year demand for NBFD services growth was 36% and 10 year growth increase - 85% and demand continues to increase.

BD discusses that we have a "SUPPLY PROBLEM", volunteers are dropping, recruitment and retention issues are severe and a committee has been established to help solve the issues. "There has been a huge decline in people looking to join FD." Current NBFD membership is 36 members. 10 live out of town, 14 members are per diem. BD presents a graph slide with the following information: If NBFD responds to 768 calls with 50 members, that is a lot of calls per individual. BD reminds voters that people's time is valuable and they should be compensated for their hard work. BD says the program is a tremendous success and NBFD only missed 9, 911 calls in ALL of 2023 which is a huge improvement overall. Some given stats: Ambulance is 35% faster on road, 28% faster on scene. (A1) 70% decrease in mutual aid requests, decreased response times, improved revenues, higher level of care, mutual aid balance restored. BD asks, "Why per diem and not to full time?" "We looked at that." Per diem cost is \$26 hr, full time is 27\$ hr, per diem has no benefits, no retirement, no overtime. The total cost for 2 per diem firefighter/emts per year is \$489,212 vs 2 full-time firefighter/emts at \$1,234,584.00. BD states "We have been working on shoestring budget for years, volunteers have been working on it for years and supporting the town. We need your support! Thank you."

Lee Nyquist approaches. LN thanks Brian Dubrieul. Motion seconded to move. LN asks "any further comment?" No response from the crowd. Those in favor, say I, opposed - none. The I's have it and we move on. Article 7 is moved to ballot.

Citizen raises hand. Citizen approaches the podium. Lynn Wawrzyniak of 9 Davis Lane makes a motion to restrict reconsideration on 3 articles. No opposition. Restriction is placed.

Article 8:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)** to cover the salary and benefits-cost associated with providing a **Three Percent (3.0%) COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment)** in 2024 for all town employees. COLA to be voted on annually at the discretion of the Select Board. Said amount to come from taxation. If approved, this appropriation will be included in the following year's Operating Budget and Default Budget.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes DM. Moves to approve. Second, BM seconds. DM speaks in favor of move. DM reads explanation. "The Select Board voted to provide town employees with a 3.0% COLA in 2024 to ensure wages keep pace with the increase in inflation. The Cost-of-Living Adjustment over the last few years has totaled approximately 15.9% (2021-1.3%, 2022-5.9%, 2023-8.7%) with 2024 anticipated to be 3.2% according to the Social Security Administration website www.ssa.gov/cola/."

LN asks, discussion? Article question: Mike Reilly of 86 Jessica Lane approaches the podium, Mike questions why this not included in operating budget next year. Mike questions if this is a COLA for a specific situation. DM explains that it has never been a warrant item. Mike Reilly 86 Jessica Lane does not think the appropriate language is being used in the warrant presented. LN informs MR that he may submit a written amendment. Jennifer Allocca speaks. JA states "Its the appropriation or dollar amount that will be included in the operation budget. It is the dollar amount added to the total wages, it is not saying COLA is being given every year at 3%, it will be voted on annually. When the new budget begins in 2025 we cannot take it away, it will be part of the operating budget, the percent carries over." LN (moderator) asks if his question is answered and if he still needs an amendment. DM repeats the information given prior. Marlene Reilly 86 Jessica Lane, New Boston speaks (inaudible) LN asks if there is further discussion. There is none. A vote is taken and the I's have it. We move forward, article 8 is moved to ballot.

Article 9:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$890,000)** for the purpose of replacing the **Bedford Road Culvert** located at Cochran Brook 280' east of Foxberry Drive / Bedford Rd intersection, with **Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000)** to come from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Grant (NHDES), **Two Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Thirty-Four Dollars (\$228,034)** to come from the **NH State Bridge Aid** and **Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000)** to come from the **Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** and the balance of **Sixty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$61,966)** to come from taxation. **If this article fails, the Town will lose the NHDES grant in the amount of \$400,000.**

Lee reads article 9. DM is recognized and moves to approve the warrant. BM is recognized and seconds. DM reads explanation. "The goal of this project with the help of grant funds, is to replace the existing high-risk crossing with an open bottom span structure which provides both streambed and bank stabilization. The improved section will be wide enough to allow aquatic organism passage and improved terrestrial passage. The new crossing would pass the 100-year storm and would be constructed with modern construction practices to provide a long-term reliable solution. In 2020, Warrant Article #19 for \$75,000 was passed by the Town to start the design and permitting effort. The Town was fortunate to receive the NHDES Grant of \$400,000 to assist in funding this project. If this article fails, the Town will lose the NHDES grant."

LN asks, "discussion?" None. All in favor say I, I's have it. Article 9 moves to the ballot and we move on to article 10.

Article 10:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Fire Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund** established in 2000 per RSA 35:1.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes Kary Jenks (select board) to make motion, KJ makes motion DM is recognized and seconds. KJ reads the explanation. "This yearly Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) includes both replacement and mid-life refurbishment of all Fire Department vehicles except the ambulances, which are purchased through a separate ambulance revolving fund that derives its revenues from user fees not taxes. The vehicle roster includes two front-line pumpers and a backup pumper, a tank truck, a forestry truck, a light rescue vehicle and a command vehicle which was added by the Fire Wards three years ago and is expected to be placed on the Town Warrant for 2024. These vehicles are extremely expensive, with pumpers expected to cost over \$980,000 in the next purchase cycle. With a midlife refurbishment, these pumpers generally have a 25-year life cycle. The other vehicles have 15 to 30-year cycles. While this is good on one hand, it makes projecting future costs problematic. The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee carefully reviews this vehicle schedule annually, attempting to account for any known increases in vehicle costs and has recommended a deposit into the CRF of \$200,000 each year for the next six (6) years. This is an increase of \$25,000 over the amount requested in previous years primarily due to the continuing increases in costs of replacement Fire Department vehicles. For example, in 2020 the Town ordered a new pumper at a cost of \$671,000. The next new pumper purchase, scheduled in 2026, is estimated to cost \$980,000. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the CIP recommendation and scheduling."

LN asks, discussion? None. All in favor say I, no opposed, I's have it. We move on. Article 10 moves to the ballot.

Laura Bernard, of 43 Jessica lane approaches the podium. Restricts reconsideration of previous 3 articles discussed. Second by Dick Jardine of 22 depot street New Boston. Restriction placed.

Article 11:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$69,000)**, for the purchase of a **Fire Department Command Vehicle**, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of said amount from the **Fire Department Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund**. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the specified purchase is complete or December 31, 2026, whichever comes first.

Lee reads article 11. Lee recognizes KJ to make a motion. KJ makes a motion, DM seconds motion. KJ speaks in favor “The Capital Improvement Program (CIP), has the Fire Department Command vehicle scheduled to be replaced in 2024. A used vehicle was donated to the department in 2020 and was removed from service in March 2023 due to repairs exceeding the value of the vehicle. The Select Board authorized the proceeds received from the sale of the donated vehicle to be used to purchase another used command vehicle from the Town of Hooksett to fill the gap until the CIP scheduled replacement in 2024. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the CIP recommendation and scheduling.”

Lee inquires, Any further discussion? None. Motion to move, signify by saying I, no opposed, the I’s have it and we move on. Article 11 moves to the ballot.

Article 12:

To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for purchasing, upgrading and maintenance of fire department equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000)** to be placed in this fund, with the amount to come from taxes. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes KJ to make motion, DM to make 2nd. KJ speaks in favor: . “Establishment of this Capital Reserve fund will provide for the purchasing, upgrading and maintenance of large dollar items such as SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus), compressors, hose and equipment. In 2019 the Select Board proposed a warrant which did not pass by the required 2/3 majority to expand the purpose of the Fire Department Vehicle CRF to include equipment. The CIP Committee recommended the Fire Wards reconvene with the Select Board and seek a new warrant article for a new CRF for their equipment replacement needs. The hope is to avoid spikes in the operating budget and keep tax impacts low with advanced planning and budgeting.”

Lee inquires, Any further discussion? None. Motion to move. All in favor, say I. Opposed, none. The I’s have it and we move forward. Article 12 moves to the ballot.

Article 13:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund** established in 2020 per RSA 35:1, to maintain the Emergency Management communications and related system.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes KJ motion to move. DM seconds. KJ speaks in favor of motion. “In 2020, the Town voted to establish an Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund for the collection of funds to maintain the Emergency Services communications and related systems. The CIP Committee is continuing to request a \$20,000 annual deposit into this fund to meet the needs of the radio tower maintenance scheduled in 2027. The funding under this article is consistent with the CIP recommendation and scheduling.”

LN inquires, no further discussion? None. Those in favor, say I. Opposed nay, the I’s have it and we move forward. Article 13 moves to the ballot.

Article 14:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund** established in 1999 per RSA 35:1.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes BM makes a motion. KJ is second. BM speaks in favor. “This Capital Reserve Fund now covers two (2) full-sized 6-wheel dump trucks, one (1) smaller 6-wheel truck (F-550) with plows, and five (5) 10-wheel trucks. There is also an F-250 4x4 pickup truck with a plow and a Chevy Silverado 1500. Four of these vehicles are scheduled to be replaced in the next four years. The cost of new 10-wheel trucks with plows is currently \$260,000. As a result of the replacement timing the Capital Improvements Program Committee recommends a \$175,000 CRF deposit in 2024 and 2025 and increasing to \$200,000 in future years. This is an increase of \$25,000 in years 2024 and 2025 and an increase of \$50,000 a year for the remaining years to maintain balances in the fund needed to purchase these vehicles. The funding under this article is consistent with the CIP recommendation and scheduling.”

Lee inquires, Any further discussion? None. Those in favor say, I. Opposed, nay, none. The I’s have it and the article moves to ballot.

Article 15:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$260,000)**, for the purchase of **one fully equipped 10-wheel dump truck with plow**, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of said amount from the existing **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund**. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the specified purchase is complete or December 31, 2026, whichever comes first.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes BM to make motion. BM makes a motion to move to warrant, KJ makes second. BM speaks in favor "It is the recommendation of the Road Agent to purchase one 10-wheel dump truck with a plow to replace one 6-wheel dump truck. 10-wheel dump trucks are expected to last longer than the 6-wheel trucks. The life cycle for this type of vehicle is 15-years. Response time is improved with a 10-wheel and less trips to reload for material. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the Capital Improvements Program recommendation and scheduling."

Lee inquires, any further discussion? None. All in favor, I. All opposed nay, none. The article moves to the ballot and we move forward. Article 15 moves to the ballot.

Article 16:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** established in 2007 per RSA 35:1

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes BM. BM makes motion to move article 16 to warrant. KJ 2nd, BM speaks in favor of motion. "The Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) previously covered the replacement cost of the grader, loader, and backhoe. In 2022 the Town voted to add a vibratory roller and an excavator to the roster of heavy equipment. Adding these pieces to the repurchase schedule, and recalculating the schedule based on current replacement costs, increases the recommended on-going deposit from \$45,000 to \$65,000 into the CRF. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the Capital Improvements Program recommendation and scheduling."

Lee inquires, any further discussion? None . A vote is taken, the I's have it and we move forward. Article 16 moves to the ballot.

Article 17:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** established in 2011 per RSA 35:1.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes BM. BM makes motion to move article 17 to warrant. KJ makes a motion to second. BM speaks in favor "This yearly Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) will remain at its current funding of \$40,000. Previously approved projects to be funded by this CRF for 20% of the engineering costs in 2024 for the replacements of Tucker Mill Road Bridge (2023 Warrant Article# 11) and Gregg Mill Road Bridge (2023 Warrant Article# 12). Federal and State funds will cover the balance. The funding under this article is consistent with the Capital Improvements Program recommendation and scheduling."

The motion to move article 17 as written to official town warrant for election is now before you. Lee inquires, any further discussion? None. A vote is taken, I's have it. We move forward and article 17 goes to ballot.

Article 18:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)**, for **Road Improvements**. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the road improvements are complete or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes KJ for the purpose of making a motion. DM seconds. KJ speaks in favor "This yearly funding of roadwork is one of the things that have prevented New Boston from needing multi-million-dollar bonds to repair severely deteriorated roads. These repairs often include extensive tree trimming and drainage repairs. The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee recommends increasing this amount from \$85,000 (which has been the annual request since the early 2000's) to \$100,000 to begin to account for increased costs related to road projects. Projects currently planned include Beard Road in 2025. The funding under this article is consistent with the CIP recommendation and scheduling."

The motion to move article 18 has been seconded and is now before you. There is no debate, a vote is taken and the I's have it. We move forward and article 18 moves to the ballot.

Laura Bernard, 43 Jessica Lane, 11-18 restrict reconsideration . Lynn Wawrzyniak of 9 Davis lane seconds motion. Restriction in place. We move forward.

Article 19:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$212,713)**, for Town road-related upgrades and other road improvements, to be offset by revenue from the State of New Hampshire **Highway Block Grant Program** estimated to be **Two Hundred Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$212,713)**. If the grant is not fully received, only the amount received will be expended. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, IV and will not lapse until the said funds are expended.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes KJ. KJ motions and DM seconds. KJ speaks in favor "This article is to accept the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grant revenue and to expend for purposes allowed under said program. The funds can only be used for construction, reconstruction and maintenance of each municipality's Class IV and V highways. The funds can also be used towards equipment to maintain the local roads. The amount received is calculated based upon the Town's population in proportion to the entire State of New Hampshire's population and based upon the Town's Class IV and V road mileage in proportion to the total statewide Class IV and V mileage.

LN states " The motion to move article 19 has been seconded and is before you for debate."

Mike Reilly of 86 Jessica Lane, has a question. "Is there a list of roads that are being served in relation to this?" DM states "this year we signed an agreement with SNH purchase software program that will assist the highway dept road comm. to plan road repairs etc and the list will be curated." MR is satisfied.

Those in favor, say I. The I's have it and we move forward. Article 19 moves to the ballot.

Article 20:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund** established in 1995 per RSA 35:1, as required by State Law RSA 75:8-a, and the New Hampshire Constitution, the Town must revalue all real estate so that all assessments are at full and true value at least as often as every fifth year.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes KJ to make a motion. DM seconds. KJ speaks in favor. "As required by State Law (RSA 75:8-a), and the New Hampshire Constitution, the Town must revalue all real estate so that all assessments are at full and true value at least as often as every fifth year. A total amount of \$80,000 is the final estimated cost to complete a partial revaluation of all town properties in 2026. The next town full revaluation will be in 2031."

Lee inquires if there is any debate, there is none. The vote is taken, the I's have it. Article 20 moves to the ballot.

Fred Hayes of 519 Bedford rd. Motions to move article 29 ahead to now. Joe Constance seconds. I's have it. We head to article 29. (See article 29)

Article 21:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Municipal Facilities Expendable Trust Fund** established in 2022 per RSA 35:1.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes KJ to make a motion. KJ makes a motion, DM seconds. KJ speaks in favor " This fund provides for the maintenance, improvement and renovations of all town government facilities to ensure that they are well maintained and do not fall into disrepair. A facilities maintenance inventory schedule will be established to utilize effectively and efficiently said fund."

Lee opens the floor for discussion, there is none. A vote is complete, I's have it. We move forward and article 21 moves to the ballot.

Article 22:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000)**, for a **Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) Mapping**, the second of two (2) annual appropriations for a total of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$220,125).

Lee Nyquist reads the explanation. LN recognizes BM's motion. DM seconds and speaks in favor "Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) entails the implementation of a computerized software to track the Town's parcel maps and provide detailed information not available when utilizing our paper maps. Electronic mapping will ensure equitable assessment of each parcel. This project will include review of existing parcels and remapping for accuracy. The benefits of utilizing G.I.S. with infrastructure planning, design, budgeting and asset maintenance includes improved workflows, decreased costs, improved efficiency, improved collaboration amongst Town departments and other local and state governments. Anyone will have real-time access from anywhere on any electronic device. The mapping will contain other various data such as wetlands, zoning, floodplain, drainage, and other critical information."

LN asks if there is any debate, there is none. Motion to move along, there are no nays, the I's have it and we move forward.

Mr. Tim Fallon, 17 Winchester Lane Bedford steps up in regards to his work on the GIS mapping project. Lee expresses that motion has been passed and TF explains that "year 1 of the project was finished in Dec. A ground control survey was completed in April of 2023. Aerial photos, April 14 2023 and the planimetric map sept 1st 2023. The next steps are data gathering and data research, accessing the deed for every parcel, compilation of parcel data and then move onto year 3 where we will deliver project completion."

Lee thanks Mr. Fallon. We move on and article 22 is moved to the ballot.

Article 23:

Shall the Town vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of **Fire Department Special Detail** wages, benefits, administrative costs, supplies, equipment, and apparatus and to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000)** to be deposited into the fund. Further, all revenues received for fire department special details will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the Town's General Fund Balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Select Board and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. After payment of fire department special detail wages, benefits, administrative costs, supplies and other equipment, the fund may also be used for the purpose of purchasing apparatus and equipment for fire special details. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes BM for the purpose of making a motion. BM makes a motion, DM seconds. BM speaks in favor "The Article was proposed to change the way the Town accounts for fire department special detail funds. In recent years it has been included as an appropriation item with offsetting revenue being returned to the general fund. The passage of this Warrant Article is intended to remove the costs and revenue from the operating budget and to take any excess (after payment of all wages and appropriate Town expenses) and set that aside to be used toward the future replacement of fire apparatus and equipment used for special details."

Lee invites any debate or discussion. There is none. A vote is taken, the I's have it. We move forward and Article 23 moves to the ballot.

Article 24:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$12,850)**, for the purpose of supporting the New Boston Fourth of July Association, a non-profit organization, by funding a portion of the cost of the **Fourth of July fireworks** and cover the costs of **mandatory police and fire details** for the parade and the fireworks events.

Lee reads the article aloud. Lee recognizes BM to make motion. BM makes motion. DM seconds. BM speaks in favor "This article is to support the annual Fourth of July parade and celebration with fireworks and the mandatory police and fire detail."

Lee opens the article up for debate. There is none. Those in favor, I. The I's have it and we move forward. Article 24 moves to the ballot.

Article 25:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars (\$6,438)**, for funding the additional cost of **Police and Fire Dispatch Services** contracted through the Town of Goffstown. If Article #06 (Operating Budget) passes, this article will become null and void. If Article #06 (Operating Budget) fails, and this article is approved, the appropriation will be included in the following year's Operating Budget and Default Budget.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes BM to make a motion. BM makes a motion, DM seconds. Bill speaks in favor "The contracts for Police and Fire dispatch services with Goffstown will increase by \$6,437.46 in 2024. \$2,078.27 for the Fire Department and \$4,359.19 for the Police Department. Pursuant to RSA 40:13, which became effective August 24, 2018, increases in contracts cannot be included in a default budget if the budget were to fail. The requested funds cover only the contract increases should the budget fall to default. This would enable the Police and Fire Department to continue dispatch services throughout 2024."

Lee invites all for discussion? There is none. A vote is taken, the I's have it and we move forward. Article 25 is moved to the ballot. Laura Bernard 43 Jessica Lane approaches the podium and motions to move to restrict article 21, 23, 24, 25. Motion is seconded by Nick Brezniak 185 McCurdy rd. Those in favor to restrict reconsideration. 1 nay. The I's have it.

Article 26:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$3,600)**, for funding the update of the names on the plaques of the **New Boston Soldier's Monument** located on the Town Common. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes DM to make a motion. KJ seconds, DM speaks in favor. "The Town of New Boston Select Board with the New Boston Historical Society wish to update the names of New Boston veterans who served during war time periods. These funds would hire a company to update and replace the existing plaque installed in 1997 with a larger plaque updated to include veterans omitted from earlier installations and to include veterans of the Global War on Terrorism. New Boston's veterans should be honored for their dedication to our country."

Lee inquires, Any discussion/debate? None. A vote is taken and the I's have it. We move forward and the article is moved to the ballot.

Article 27:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eighteen Thousand Ninety- Two Dollars (\$18,092)** of the remaining **Mill Pond Foot Bridge** funds to be added to the **Mill Pond Foot Bridge Expendable Trust Fund** established in 2020 per RSA 31:19-a. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. **No amount to be raised from current year taxation.**

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes DM, DM moves. KJ seconds. DM speaks in favor "Per the Town auditors, there remains \$18,092.21 in the Restricted Fund Balance for the Mill Pond Foot Bridge. In 2020, Warrant Article 26 passed to create a trust fund for the Mill Pond Foot Bridge funds, which \$6,000 was paid in 2017 from Unassigned Fund Balance and placed in the Common Trust I account by the Trustees of Trust Funds."

Lee opens the floor for discussion? None. A vote is taken and the I's have it. We move forward and the article is moved to the ballot.

Article 28:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000)** for the purpose of subscribing and implementing a **budget software program** as a tool to modernize the Town's budget process and the ability to clearly communicate the budget finances and other financial information to the residents of New Boston.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes DM, DM motions. KJ seconds. DM speaks in favor "This software will provide a robust tool for the departments and Select Board to budget more efficiently and communicate more effectively with the residents. This warrant article includes implementation set up costs of \$5,850 and a 9-month pro-rata subscription fee of \$14,250. The budget software includes modules for operating, personnel, capital, a digital budget book and Transparency module. If approved, the 2025 annual subscription fee will be in the amount of \$19,000 for a full twelve (12) months. The Town is being offered a Full Suite Bundle Promotion discount. A savings of \$14,300. The annual subscription fee will increase by 3% per annum through the end of the Initial Service Period Jan 1, 2025 through Dec 31, 2027, then increase 6% per annum after the Initial Service Period."

Lee opens the floor for discussion/debate? Mark Suennen of 325 twin bridge rd. Approaches the podium. Mark is on the town finance committee, Mark states: "The warrant article proposed to the finance committee reflected no increase in current taxes. The verbiage here does not match what we voted on." DM discusses why the verbiage is different here vs what they voted on. Lee asks if something needs to be amended or if the finance committee wants to take another vote? Lee says "what we're doing here tonight is voting on what will appear on the ballot. There seems to be a credible claim that language cannot be adjusted and we may need a re-vote." "the language finance committee voted on is different than the language in front of us." MS states "we had a discussion of it being on the ballots but the vote that was cast was made based on language that is not present in this article as written tonight." Jennifer Allocca asks if all members of the finance committee are present. MS makes an amendment to strike language stating the finance committee voted in favor. Lee explains the amendment further to the voters and we take a vote on the proposed amendment. The I's have it and the amendment is passed.

The amendment made is that we will REMOVE the finance committee recommendation from the ballot at this time.

Now we are back to the main motion as passed, further discussion? None. Those in favor, I. I's have it.

We move forward, the article moves to the ballot with the amendment.

Article 29:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ninety-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$99,000)** for the purpose of upgrading and replacing the fire and security alarm systems in the Town Hall, Highway Department, Police Station, Transfer Station, and the Recreation Building (Old Engine House) to include all associated equipment, labor, and materials to install and maintain the fire/security alarm systems. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2027, whichever comes first.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes DM, KJ seconds. DM speaks in favor "The current fire and security alarm systems are in need of technological updating to properly safeguard town residents, employees, buildings and other town assets. These upgrades/replacements are necessary to secure confidential information and prevent unauthorized access to sensitive areas as well as alerting emergency responders when necessary."

Lee asks the voters: "Any debate?"

Fred Hayes 519 Bedford rd. "I have a couple of issues, we have municipal facilities. I believe the trust fund we have in place already should pay for this project. My suggestion would be "we raise 0\$ for this warrant article and increase municipal facilities article to 60k this year." Fred argues that all systems cannot be that bad and that there should be priorities and it should have come out of municipalities. Fred Hayes submits a written amendment. Town counselor, MO, speaks to the fact that changing the amount to 0 would mean that we cannot put 0 funds towards the project and would kill the purpose. Fred Hayes re-writes amendment.

Mindy Charles, 126 Town Farm Rd. approaches the podium and asks a question that is inaudible.

Lee approaches the podium and reads amendment presented by Mr. Hayes aloud and asks for a second for the motion. Karen Scott seconds motion. "Mr Hayes motion 2nd by Karen Scott. Joyce Welton of 111 bog Brook Rd approaches the podium. Joyce questions that if we vote to amend this we will not be able to update security systems. "We would have to wait 2 years?" "So if we do not do this then our investment in these buildings would go up in flames." She encourages voting the amendment down.

Lee asks if there is any further discussion, there is none.

We are voting on an amendment proposed by Fred Hayes seconded by Karen Scott. There is a call for division. Supervisors will now count Nay V cards vs I "V" cards. Lee reads the following : In favor 14, those opposed 30. The Amendment fails and We return to the original article. Lee asks: is there further discussion? None. The I's have it. Article 29 moves to the ballot.

Lynn Wawrzyniak of 9 davis lane moves to restrict reconsideration of Article 19- 29, her motion is seconded by Nicholas Brezniak 185 McCurdy rd. A. Vote is taken, the I's have it and the restriction is placed.

Article 30:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$8,900)** to be distributed to seven (7) human service agencies that provide service in the New Boston community in the amounts requested by the following agencies for 2024:

Agency Name

Home Healthcare Hospice / Visiting Nurse
Granite State Children's Alliance (Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough County)
Court Appointed Special Advocates of New Hampshire (CASA)
Crispin's House Coalition for Youth
Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire
Red Cross
St. Joseph Community / Meals On Wheels

Total

2024 Funding

\$ 1,000 1,000

1,000

1,000 1,000 1,000 2,900

\$ 8,900

These agencies shall be required to give a written report at the end of their fiscal year 2024 to the Select Board highlighting what the funds were used for and what impact the funds had in assisting them to achieve their goals and objectives.

Lee reads the article. Lee recognizes DM to make a motion. KJ makes second. DM speaks in favor " These agencies depend on the generosity of a caring community of donors and grants from the municipalities served. These agencies provide a variety of assistance to the residents of New Boston and many have over the years. These services include providing medical care for residents in their home and in the Community Hospice House even when a resident does not have insurance or resources, child advocacy when a case involves a New Boston youth resident, youth leadership opportunities, substance misuse prevention, suicide prevention, mental health initiatives along with a Juvenile Court Diversion program that serves the New Boston Police Department (NBPD). Other services include assistance to families who are temporarily experiencing homelessness, meals to homebound residents and services to ensure the health, safety, and preparedness for New Boston residents."

Lee asks if there is any debate or discussion. There is none. A vote is taken and the I's have it. Article 30 is moved to the ballot.

Article 31:

To act on any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Laura Bernard makes a motion to adjourn. This motion is seconded by Joe Constance.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:30pm .