

2024 WARRANT



TOWN OF NEW BOSTON

To the Inhabitants of the Town of New Boston, New Hampshire in the County of Hillsborough, in said State qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified in accordance with SB-2, the first session of all business other than voting by official ballot shall be held on **Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm**, at the New Boston Central School, located at 15 Central School Rd, New Boston, NH 03070. The first session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each warrant article. Warrant Articles may be amended, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) Warrant Articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended;
- (b) Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for final vote on the main motion, as amended.

The second session of the annual meeting, to vote on questions required by law to be inserted on said official ballot and to vote on all Warrant Articles from the first session on official ballot shall be held on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm**, at the New Boston Central School located at 15 Central School Rd, New Boston, NH 03070, to act upon the following:

Article 01:

Cemetery Trustee for 3 years, vote for 1

Warren Houghton [1203]

Fire Ward for 3 years, vote for 2

Bruce McKim [784]

Cliff Plourde [835]

Stephen L. Sears [615]

Library Trustee for 3 years, vote for 2

Christa Snyder [1004]

Kerri Kelley [991]

Library Trustee for 2 years, vote for 1

Susan Hansen [1152]

Library Trustee for 1 year, vote for one 1

John Fladd [1082]

Moderator for two 2 years, vote for one 1

Lee C. Nyquist [1113]

Select Board Member for 3 years, vote for 1

William McFadden [1068]

Select Board Member for 1 year, vote for one 1

Joseph Constance [674]

Nicholas Brezniak [449]

Supervisors of the Checklist 6 years, vote for one 1

David W. Mudrick [1195]

Town Clerk for 3 years, vote for one 1

Kim Colbert [1219]

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years, vote for 1

Fred Hayes [1119]

Article 02: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment No. 2 to the existing Town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, as follows: adding a new Section 410 to allow Roof Mounted Solar Energy Systems as a permitted use and Ground Mounted Solar Systems as an allowed use by Conditional Use Permit reviewed by the Planning Board as an innovative land use control.

YES [983] NO [397]

Article 03: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment No. 3 to the existing Town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, as follows: amending Article II, Establishment of Districts and District Regulations, Section 204.2 Small Scale Planned Commercial District by adding Research and Development Facility as a Permitted Use and deleting Research and Development Facility as Allowed by Special Exception.

YES [859] NO [500]

Article 04: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment No. 4 to the existing Town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, amend Article II, Establishment of Districts and District Regulations, Section 204.2 Small Scale Planned Commercial District by adding **Light Industry** as a use allowed by Conditional Use Permit.

And amend **Article VI Definitions** as follows: Light Industry – Uses which are intended primarily for production, processing, and assembly plants that are operated so that excessive noise, odor, dust, and glare of such operations are confined within an enclosed building.

YES [912] NO [447]

Article 05: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment No. 5 to the existing Floodplain Development Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, as follows: updating and amending the Town Floodplain Ordinance consistent with new requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, such changes will include amending the following sections: introduction, item 1 definition of tasks, item V (b), and item VIII 1, 2, b, d and e, as necessary.

YES [981] NO [351]

Article 06: 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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact Net of Estimated Revenue \$4.87)**

YES [957] NO [473]

Explanation for Article 06: 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.

Article 07: 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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.52)**

YES [863] NO [571]

Explanation of Article 07: This funding will allow for the staffing of the fire department with two (2) personnel 24 hours per day every day. In September of 2022, the Select Board authorized emergency funding for the purpose of hiring per diem (part-time) staffing to provide scheduled coverage for emergencies. The service demands have grown beyond the ability of our on-call members to respond to every call as expected from the community. The funding to initiate this program was approved by warrant article #22 in 2023. The program has been successful in ensuring an initial response to emergencies thereby reducing calls going unanswered by New Boston Fire Dept (NBFD) and relying on mutual aid from neighboring communities to cover emergencies. The use of part-time staff accomplishes the goal without the added cost of full-time wages & benefits which would increase the overall program costs significantly. All funding for the continuation of this program is included in this warrant article, there is no funding in the proposed 2024 operating budget. However, should this article pass, this appropriation would be included in the 2025 operating and default budget.

Article 08: 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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommended 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.10)**

YES [752] NO [672]

Explanation of Article 08: 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/.

Article 09: 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
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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. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.07)**

YES [1135] NO [293]

Explanation of Article 09: 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 stream and bank simulation. 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.21)**

YES [985] NO [425]

Explanation of Article 10: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (No current year tax impact)**

YES [992] NO [439]

Explanation of Article 11: 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.

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

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taxes. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. **(Majority Vote Required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.05)**

YES [766] NO [605]

Explanation of Article 12: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)**

YES [1186] NO [340]

Explanation for Article 13: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.18)**

YES [981] NO [451]

Explanation of Article 14: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (No current year tax impact)**

YES [1070] NO [366]

Explanation of Article 15: It is the recommendation of the Road Agent to purchase one 10-wheel dump truck with 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.07)**

YES [987] NO [441]

Explanation of Article 16: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.04)**

YES [1112] NO [314]

Explanation of Article 17: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.11)**

YES [1115] NO [315]

Explanation of Article 18: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (No funds to be raised by taxation)**

YES [1234] NO [200]

Explanation of Article 19: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.03)**

YES [927] NO [489]

Explanation of Article 20: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.03)**

YES [915] NO [497]

Explanation of Article 21: 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.

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). **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.12)**

YES [880] NO [542]

Explanation of Article 22: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.001)**

YES [1079] NO [354]

Explanation of Article 23: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01)**

YES [975] NO [415]

Explanation of Article 24: This article is to support the annual Fourth of July parade and celebration with fireworks and the mandatory police and fire detail.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-1) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01)**

YES [873] NO [538]

Explanation of Article 25: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.004)**

YES [1082] NO [322]

Explanation of Article 26: 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.

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. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0)**

YES [1039] NO [366]

Explanation of Article 27: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)**

YES [695] NO [769]

Explanation of Article 28: 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.

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.10)**

YES [621] NO [784]

Explanation of Article 29: 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.

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:

| <u>Agency Name</u> | <u>2024 Funding</u> |
|--|------------------------|
| Home Healthcare Hospice / Visiting Nurse | \$ 1,000 |
| Granite State Children’s Alliance (Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough County) | 1,000 |
| Court Appointed Special Advocates of New Hampshire (CASA) | 1,000 |
| Crispin’s House Coalition for Youth | 1,000 |
| Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire | 1,000 |
| Red Cross | 1,000 |
| St. Joseph Community / Meals On Wheels | <u>2,900</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 8,900</u> |

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. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 7-0) (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01)**

YES [776] NO [641]

Explanation of Article 30: 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.

Please Note:

The estimated tax impact noted in the article explanations are only estimates and will likely change at the time the 2024 tax rate is set next November. The estimates are based on the 2023 tax rate setting total Town evaluation (\$948,557,044), which will likely change in 2024. Revenues are based on estimates and will also change at the time of tax rate setting in 2024. The revenue total used to calculate the net impact of the operating budget does not include any use of fund balance at tax rate setting.