

2023 WARRANTS



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 6, 2023, at 7:00 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 14, 2023, 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

Gail Peirce Stout **[1524]**

Fire Ward for 3 years, vote for 2

Joe Segien **[1299]**

Wayne Blassberg **[1260]**

Fire Ward for 1 year, vote for 1

Steve Sears **[466]**

Library Trustee for 3 years, vote for 2

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Jacob Fields | [977] |
| John Fladd | [583] |
| Robin Winslow | [955] |

Select Board Member for 3 years, vote for 1*

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| William McFadden | [863] |
| Kary Jencks | [882] |

Treasurer 3 years, vote for 1

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|------------|--------|
| Bill Gould | [1424] |
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Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years, vote for 1

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| Jennifer M. Allocca | [1362] |
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Article 02: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Seven Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,900,000)**, for the construction of a **Fire / Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Facility** in the Town of New Boston. Said sum to be raised by issuance of serial bond(s) or note(s) not to exceed **Seven Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,900,000)** under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bond(s) and note(s), to determine the rate(s) of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, to require the Select Board to hold a Public Hearing not less than 15 days prior to signing any municipal debt agreement(s) for the purpose of obtaining comment and testimony on the rate(s) of interest, maturity and other terms of the debt agreement(s), to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project and to take such other actions or to pass any other vote relative thereto as shall be in the best interest of the Town of New Boston. **(3/5 ballot vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [786] NO [1026]

Explanation of Article 02: This Warrant Article is requesting funding for the new construction of a fire department and emergency management services (EMS/Ambulance) facility because the current fire station is inadequate to meet the current and future needs of the growing community. The architectural firm SMP, was hired to design a new fire station. The design concept is based upon input from the Fire Dept and EMS personnel, the FD/EMS (Safety Center) Building Committee made up of town residents and the Town Select Board. The Building Committee members along with the FD/EMS employees visited various New Hampshire towns that had recently constructed Fire/EMS and Safety Center facilities to gain insight of the experiences and feedback from those towns who recently went through a similar process. This facility is expected to serve New Boston's fire and emergency management services needs for the next 20 to 25 years. The design concept photos and floorplan can be viewed on the Town of New Boston website www.newbostonnh.gov.

*Recount totals

Article 03: 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 Eight Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$6,822,518)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Five Million Eight Hundred Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$5,815,453)**, 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 5-1)**

YES [809] NO [984]

Explanation of Article 03: 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. **(Estimated Tax Impact Net of Estimated Revenue \$5.33)**

Article 04: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Nine Hundred Eight Thousand Dollars (\$908,000)** for the purpose of **constructing and furnishing an attached addition at the Police Station** located at 116 Old Coach Road, with **Six Hundred Seven Thousand Dollars (\$607,000)** to come from the American Rescue Program Act Funds (ARPA) and the balance of **Three Hundred One Thousand Dollars (\$301,000)** to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1114] NO [682]

Explanation of Article 04: The Police Station was completed in 1994. Per the Town's 2018 Master Plan and the 2005 Master Plan, the police station at 116 Old Coach Road does not have the required building sprinkler system and adequate space. The addition will provide improvements for safety and space including secure booking and holding rooms, increased space for evidence and storage, a female locker room, increased security monitoring, as well as much needed exterior structural renovations and septic system updates. A copy of the design plans can be viewed on the Town's website at www.newbostonnh.gov **(No current year tax impact.)**

Article 05: 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 **Fire Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund**. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1308] NO [468]

Explanation of Article 05: This yearly Capital Reserve Fund includes both replacement and mid-life refurbishment of all Fire Department vehicles except the ambulances, which are purchased through a separate ambulance fund that derives its revenues from user fees not taxes. The vehicle roster includes two front-line pumpers and a preowned pumper at the Hilltop Station, 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 \$700,000 in the next purchase cycle. With a midlife refurbishment, these pumpers generally have a 25-year life cycle. The other vehicles also have 15 to 30-year cycles. While this is good on one hand, it makes projecting future costs problematic. Based on the replacement cost of each vehicle plus equipment for the year of replacement or refurbishment, the Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.)

Committee recommend \$175,000 each year for the next six years. This is an increase of \$45,000 over the amount requested in previous years primarily due to the continuing increases in costs of replacement Fire Department vehicles. The department has seven (7) vehicles with a life expectancy of between 15-30 years. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.19)**

Article 06: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$339,000)**, for the purchase of a **Utility 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, 2025, whichever comes first. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1200] NO [564]

Explanation for Article 06: The Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.), had the 2005 Utility 2 – Light Rescue Ford F450 scheduled to be replaced in 2020 based on a 15-year life cycle. In 2020, the replacement was rescheduled to 2023 because of the good condition of the vehicle due to the preventive maintenance schedule. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact)**

Article 07: 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** to maintain the Emergency Management communications and related system. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1373] NO [397]

Explanation of Article 07: 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 C.I.P. 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 C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)**

Article 08: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund**. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1198] NO [539]

Explanation of Article 08: The Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund covers the replacement of two (2) full-sized 6-wheel dump trucks, one (1) smaller 6-wheel water truck and five (5) 10-wheel trucks with plows. The C.I.P. Committee recommends a \$150,000 Capital Reserve Fund deposit in 2023 and future years. This is an increase of \$30,000 per year in order to maintain balances in the fund needed to purchase these vehicles. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact)**

Article 09: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000)**, to be placed into the existing **Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**.

This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1234] NO [499]

Explanation of Article 09: The Capital Reserve Fund 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. The C.I.P. Committee agreed to add the roller, but the excavator is still under lease and not yet owned by the Town. Adding these pieces to the repurchase schedule does not change the recommended on-going deposit of \$45,000 into the Capital Reserve Fund since all of these pieces have working lives in excess of 20 years. The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact)**

Article 10: 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**. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1335] NO [396]

Explanation of Article 10: This yearly Capital Reserve Fund will remain at its current funding of \$40,000. Upcoming projects to be funded by this Capital Reserve Fund in 2023 are replacements for Tucker Mill Road Bridge and Gregg Mill Road Bridge for which the Town will only be responsible for 20% of the engineering costs and Federal and State funds will cover the balance. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact)**

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Two Hundred Seven Dollars (\$331,207)**, which represents 100% of the engineering study, preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design and bidding for the replacement of the **Tucker Mill Road Bridge** over the Middle Branch Piscataquog River NHDOT Bridge # 087/150. The Town will be reimbursed 80% (up to \$264,965) of the actual engineering costs approved by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation State Bridge Aid Program, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of **Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$66,242)**, from the **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** which represents 20% of the Town's share of total engineering costs. Construction costs are anticipated to be reimbursed 100% of actual qualified construction and construction engineering costs by the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1371] NO [401]

Explanation of Article 11: Tucker Mill Road Bridge was originally planned for replacement in 2025 on the New Hampshire State Bridge Aid Program. However, the Town was awarded the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program which pays 80% of the preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design and bidding costs and 100% of the construction costs. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact)**

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$362,856)**, which represents 100% of the engineering study,

preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design and bidding for the replacement of the **Gregg Mill Road Bridge** over the South Branch Piscataquog River NHDOT Bridge# 132/138. The Town will be reimbursed 80% (up to \$290,284) of the actual engineering costs approved by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation State Bridge Aid Program, and furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of **Seventy-Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$72,572)**, from the **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund** which represents 20% of the Town's share of engineering costs. Construction costs are anticipated to be reimbursed 100% of qualified actual construction and construction engineering costs by the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1363] NO [403]

Explanation of Article 12: Gregg Mill Road Bridge was originally planned for replacement in 2027 on the New Hampshire State Bridge Aid Program. However, the Town was awarded the Federal Aid Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) Program which pays 80% of the preliminary design, permitting, right-of-way, final design and bidding costs and 100% of the construction costs. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. recommendation and scheduling. **(No current year tax impact)**

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000)**, 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, 2027, whichever comes first. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1456] NO [316]

Explanation for Article 13: This yearly funding of roadwork has diminished the need for multi-million dollar bonds to repair severely deteriorated roads. The C.I.P. Committee once again included \$85,000 on the schedule for road improvement projects in each of the next six (6) years. Projects currently scheduled include Christie Road in 2023 and Beard Road in 2025. Road Agents have explained to the Committee these road improvements often include extensive tree trimming and drainage work prior to any repaving. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.09)**

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Nine Cents (\$207,465.09)**, 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 Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Nine Cents (\$207,465.09)**. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the said funds are expended or until December 31, 2028, whichever comes first. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1484] NO [288]

Explanation of Article 14: 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. **(No funds to be raised by taxation)**

Article 15: 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**. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

YES [1108] NO [647]

Explanation of Article 15: 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. The funding under this article is consistent with the C.I.P. Committee recommendation and scheduling. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.03)**

Article 16: To see if the town will vote to establish a **Contingency Fund** for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise, and further to raise and appropriate **One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)**, to be placed into this fund. This sum is to come from **Unassigned Fund Balance**. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. The Select Board shall hold one Public Hearing not less than 10 days prior to each occurrence of expenditure from the Contingency Fund for the purpose of obtaining comment and testimony on the unanticipated expense(s) that document the use of the Contingency Fund. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

YES [753] NO [1020]

Explanation of Article 16: Effective as of August 24, 2013, towns may establish a contingency fund by approving an article at the annual meeting. The fund may be used by the governing body (Select Board) during the fiscal year to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during that year and are not otherwise provided for in the Town's budget. The fund may not exceed one percent (1%) of the amount appropriated by the town (including the school budget) during the preceding year, excluding capital expenditures and debt service. A detailed report of all expenditures from the Contingency Fund must be made each year by the governing body and published in the annual report. RSA 31:98-a; RSA 32:11, VI. **(No current year tax impact)**

Article 17: 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 **Municipal Facilities Expendable Trust Fund**. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

YES [1086] NO [642]

Explanation of Article 17: 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 effectively and efficiently utilize said fund. **(No current year tax impact)**

Article 18: 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 first of two (2) annual appropriations for a total of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$220,125). The sum of \$110,000 to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from

taxation. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

YES [1144] NO [631]

Explanation of Article 18: In 2022, the G.I.S. mapping was removed from the Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.) after it was determined that this is not a capitalizable asset. It entails the implementation of a computerized Geographic Information System (G.I.S.), 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. (No current year tax impact)

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)**, the third-year funding request to be placed into the existing **Record Retention Expendable Trust** for digitizing the Town of New Boston's records that require long term/permanent storage. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

YES [1204] NO [556]

Explanation of Article 19: This article is to fund a multi-year project which entails the scanning of Town records from all departments. It is estimated to cost approximately \$80,000 for this four (4) to five (5) year undertaking. This will ensure the long-term security of the records, regain additional valuable office space, especially at Town Hall, and make this information more readily accessible to employees and, where appropriate, the public. In 2021, the first year of this project, the Building Office scanned and saved electronically all building files resulting in removal of 15 file cabinets and remodel of the office to expand to four (4) workstations from the previous three (3) previously in place before due to space constraints. In 2022, a similar project for Assessing and was able to empty several filing cabinets at Town Hall. (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$11,850)**, 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 details** for the parade and the fireworks events. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

YES [1320] NO [458]

Explanation of Article 20: This article is to support the annual Fourth of July celebration with fireworks and police detail. (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01)

Article 21: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$3,574)**, for funding the additional cost of **Police and Fire Dispatch Services** contracted through the Town of Goffstown. If Article 03 (Operating Budget) passes, this article will become null and void. (Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)

YES [1297] NO [449]

Explanation of Article 21: The contracts for Police and Fire dispatch services with Goffstown will increase by \$3,573.26 in 2023. \$1,153.46 for the Fire Department and \$2,419.80 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 2023. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.004)**

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$349,386)**, for the purpose of funding **Per Diem Fire Department staffing**. If Article 03 (Operating Budget) passes this article will become null and void. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 5-1)**

YES [970] NO [808]

Explanation of Article 22: In September of 2022, the Select Board authorized emergency funding for the purpose of hiring per diem staffing (daytime, nights & weekends and officers) for the Fire Department following a lack of voluntary response to emergency calls. This funding was not in the prior budget and should the Town vote for a default budget, this article would allow the per diem coverage to continue. If Article 03 (Operating Budget) passes, this article becomes null and void. **(Estimated Tax Impact \$0.37)**

Article 23: To see if the town will vote to discontinue the **Town of New Boston Expendable Trust** created in **2001** under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the expenditure of principal and interest when required to meet legal benefits obligations of the Town. Said funds, in the amount of **Four Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Twenty cents (\$4,669.20)**, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's General Fund. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1384] NO [379]

Explanation of Article 23: The trust was originally established to pay long-standing employees of the Town upon retirement. The current policy of longevity payments has since replaced the need for this trust. The Trustees of Trust Funds recommend closing this trust and placing the funds back into the General Fund.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, previously adopted, for an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit at \$500 per year. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1449] NO [313]

Explanation of Article 24: The New Hampshire Legislature passed, and Governor Sununu signed into law House Bill 1667 (Chapter 121, Laws of 2022), amending eligibility criteria of the veterans' tax credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces. New Boston has an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit adopted in 2006 that must be readopted pursuant to RSA 72:27-a to remain in place and include the expanded eligibility effective for the April 1, 2023 tax year. If this article fails, the Standard Veterans' Tax Credit of \$50 will replace it for the April 1, 2023 tax year, which will include the expanded eligibility requirements.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to change how the **Fire Chief** is selected from “**Elected by the Board of Fire Wards from among the Fire Wards.**” to “**Appointed by the Board of Fire Wards.**” pursuant to RSA 154:1 (e), IV. If passed, this change will take effect one year following the vote. **(Majority Vote Required) (Select Board recommend 3-0)**

YES [1213] NO [499]

Explanation of Article 25: This article would remove the restriction set forth by the 1994 Warrant Article #22 which required the Fire Chief to be a Fire Ward. This restriction meant the only candidates that could be considered for the position of Fire Chief were the Fire Wards of the Town of New Boston. This restriction severely limits the potential candidates that may be considered for this position and defrays from the goal of selecting the most qualified candidate. It also corrects erroneous language to more accurately reflect the wording of NH RSA 154:1(e) which states, “Fire Wards of any number, as determined by the local legislative body, either elected pursuant to RSA 669:17 or appointed by the local governing body, with a fire chief and firefighters appointed by the Fire Wards”. **(No tax impact)**

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to change the sum of money that the New Boston Forestry Committee is allowed to retain in the forest maintenance fund for the management of town forests according to RSA 31:111, 112 and 113 from **Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000)**, as previously adopted in 1992 Article 15 and amended in 1996 Article 15, to **One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)**. If adopted, this article shall take effect April 1st, and remain in effect until altered by a future vote of the town meeting. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0)**

YES [1062] NO [622]

Explanation of Article 26: Over the past seven (7) years the New Boston Forestry Committee has taken a much more proactive approach to the management of the five (5) town forests under its care. It has created management plans for each forest and in accordance with the American Tree Farm System. In compliance with the Town of New Boston’s bidding procedure it has authorized and supervised select cuts of these forests to enable natural regeneration, control disease, provide natural habitat for wildlife, control erosion and lay the foundation for systemic reforestation in the future. In conjunction with the New Boston School Board, it has also established a Christmas Tree Farm for the children of New Boston Central School. In addition, it has created an educational trail in the Todd Forest that identifies various species for all those wishing to learn more about the natural habitat of the Town. This has been an entirely volunteer effort. The money gained from the select cuts of Town Forests is held in an account which is used to purchase management tools, supplies, trees and to pay for select services such as a summer intern or expert consultants. This change is requested to support the purposes outlined above. The cost of such goods and services is increasing over time and the Committee seeks to build this fund to accommodate future needs. These efforts are important for our community to maintain New Boston’s rural character, allow for wildlife corridors and healthy wildlife habitats and to prevent the tax increases that accompany new subdivisions and building of new homes. It may be necessary to purchase small equipment to construct logging access or control erosion in the future. **(No appropriation is requested and there is no effect on the tax rate.)**

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article as per RSA 32:5, V-b. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1479] NO [230]

Explanation of Article 27: The Select Board recommends including the estimated tax impact on each warrant article to provide the voter with how the specific warrant article has an impact on the tax rate. **(No appropriation is requested and there is no effect on the tax rate.)**

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the **New Boston Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan**, which authorizes the Select Board to develop and implement New Boston Community Power as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E:7) with no impact on taxes and with no obligation to participate. The program would provide a new default electric supply and new renewable energy supply options for customers in New Boston. There is no cost to the Town budget, and no obligation to participate. Customers can opt out at any time and return to utility default service. **(Majority vote required) (Select Board recommend 3-0) (Finance Committee recommend 6-0)**

YES [1421] NO [306]

Explanation of Article 28: The Town is considering implementing a new program called Community Power, or in other states, called Municipal Aggregation. The objective of this program is to save the Residents of New Boston money on their electric bill. If adopted by a majority of Town voters, The New Boston Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan would empower the Town to enter into Electric Services Agreements with Competitive Electric Power Suppliers to serve the electric supply needs of residents and small businesses. The intent is to pool our electricity demand and use the power of the competitive market for cost savings and more local renewable energy supply choices. The Town currently uses a similar contract for savings on municipal power for town buildings. **Program savings over the contract period is the goal of the program along with more renewable energy choices, but savings cannot be guaranteed.**

This program would affect only the supply line on customer electric bills. Transmission and distribution, emergency services, and billing all stay with the distribution utility, Eversource. **Eligible customers are automatically enrolled in the new program by default following notification of program rates and an opt out period.** They can also elect to choose an optional product. There are no fees to opt out, join, or change options within the program. Customers that opt out and then rejoin the program may be charged a market kWh rate. Customers currently on competitive supply are not automatically enrolled, but they can opt in. There is no cost to the Town Budget. The full text of the Plan is available on the Town website at www.newbostonnh.gov.

Please Note:

The estimated tax impact noted in the article explanations are only estimates and will likely change at the time the 2023 tax rate is set next November. The estimates are based on the 2022 tax rate setting total Town evaluation (\$938,240,329), which will likely change in 2023. Revenues are based on estimates and will also change at the time of tax rate setting in 2023. 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.