

# DRAFT

## 2021 Proposed Municipal Warrant Articles

**Article 02 :** 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 **five million five hundred twenty three thousand, three hundred eighty dollars (\$5,523,380)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **five million four hundred forty-two thousand, nine hundred forty two dollars (\$5,442,942)**, 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. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article 02:** 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 03:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000)** to be placed in the existing **Fire Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** Based on the replacement cost of each vehicle plus equipment for the year of replacement or refurbishment, \$150,000 must be allotted to the fund each year to ensure enough money is available at the time of scheduled replacement/refurbishment. The department has 6 trucks with a life expectancy of between 15-30 years.

**Article 04:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000)** to be placed in the existing **Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** The Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund covers the replacement of a small dump truck plus the three regular 6-wheel and four 10-wheel dump trucks. The smaller truck has a life expectancy of 10 years and the larger trucks 15 years plus.

**Article 05:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the withdrawal of **one hundred eighty-one eight hundred twenty-six dollars (\$181,826)** from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of payment for a replacement dump truck destroyed by fire in 2020. No tax impact. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** In 2020 one of the Town's dump trucks caught fire while being used on a road project. The truck was declared a total loss and the insurance company returned a small claim amount which was for scrap. The Town has purchased a new replacement truck whereby the payment is due in March 2021.

**Article 06:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the withdrawal of **sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000)** from the Highway truck Capital reserve Fund for the purchase of a 4x4 pickup truck with plow attachment. No tax impact. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x).

**Explanation of Article:** The C.I.P. recommends that the pickup truck fleet have a cycle of ten years. The new truck will replace a truck that is over ten years old and due to continued need for repairs is in dire need of replacement in 2021. If prudent, one pickup truck may be kept offline for back up and to plow snow. The pickup truck is listed for replacement on the 2021 C.I.P. schedule.

**Article 07:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000)** to be placed in the existing **Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** This fund allows for the replacement of the loader, grader and the backhoe on a 12-15-year replacement cycle.

**Article 08:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **forty thousand dollars (\$40,000)** to be added to the existing **Town Bridge Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** The funding under this warrant article is consistent with the C.I.P. Committee recommendation and scheduling for bridge repair and replacement projects. To keep up with the high cost of bridge repairs in the future, the Road Agent has a long-term plan for upkeep and construction. In order not to spike the appropriation for some years, the C.I.P. Committee spread the Capital Reserve funding to be consistent each year.

**Article 09:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000)** for its share of costs for the reconstruction of the Lyndeborough Road Bridge. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2024. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** This project has been planned for a couple of years and funding previously approved was used for preliminary engineering. The Town was awarded a grant in the amount of \$250,000 of which the Town must appropriate a matching fifty percent (50%) either in cash or in-kind services. This project will entail replacing a failing culvert with a pre-formed concrete bridge.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **two hundred one thousand, seven hundred eighty-nine dollars and forty-three cents (\$201,789.43)** for Town road related upgrades and other road improvements, to be offset by the State Highway Block grant. This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, IV. No money to be raised by taxation. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation for Article:** This amount was previously placed in the Highway Department operating budget. It is customary in the State of NH to place a separate warrant article for Highway Block Grants. Placing this as a separate warrant article increases transparency and ensures that the funds will be spent for the right purpose.

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six hundred five thousand dollars (\$605,000)** for the purpose of **constructing and furnishing an attached addition located at the Police Station** on Old Coach Road and furthermore, to withdraw **three hundred thousand dollars**

**(\$300,000)** from fund balance and the remaining **three hundred five thousand dollars (\$305,000)** coming from taxation. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** The Police Station is following a report from the Town's 2018 Master Plan as well as one item from the 2005 Master Plan (a Building Sprinkler system). 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 roof work, siding, and septic.

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Transfer Station/Recycling Center Revolving Fund** pursuant to RSA 31:95-h. All revenues received by the Transfer Station Recycling Center from fees, charges, or other income derived from the activities or service supported by the fund 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. And furthermore, the Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the revolving fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created which include repairs, equipment, supplies, building needs and all costs incurred for designated operations. This authorization will stay in effect until rescinded. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** This article is to authorize the Transfer Station to retain income for deposit into a special fund for the purposes detailed in the article. It is estimated that the future operating budget for the Transfer Station would be reduced by approximately \$40,000 per 12-month period if the Revolving Fund is approved.

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000)**, the first of a two-year appropriation request for the purpose of **constructing an attached garage addition located at the Highway Department facility** on Old Coach Road. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2026. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** This is a two-year funding project approved by the C.I.P. Committee to add an attached addition to the current highway garage building. By providing shelter from the elements, this will extend the life and decrease the amount of downtime of frontline highway equipment.

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)** to be added to the existing **Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** As required by State Law (RSA 75:8-a), and the New Hampshire Constitution, the Town must reappraise 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 \$160,000 is the final estimated cost to complete a full revaluation including the measuring and inspection of all properties.

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$9,200)** for the purpose of converting all 42 existing streetlights to LED. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** The LED lighting monthly rates will be reduced by approximately 50% - 62%. Currently the Town budgets \$7,000 per year and this conversion would reduce the annual budget by

between \$3,000 and \$3,500. A rebate for installation will be awarded by Eversource in the amount of \$4,150. (Original Cost -\$13,318)

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute easements and power purchase agreements that they deem to be in the best interest of the Town to establish a solar energy installation on Town property at the Transfer Station with the intent of offsetting power for that and other Town facilities in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee Recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** This article is placed on the Warrant to allow time for the exploration and refinement of options and solicit proposals from multiple vendors. The terms and financials of a potential Power Purchase Agreement may not hold for an extended period waiting for another Town Meeting. Flexibility is needed to potentially enter into a favorable agreement in a timely fashion. If the Selectmen don't see a favorable agreement, then it will not be acted upon. This Warrant was brought forth to the Selectmen by the New Boston Energy Committee.

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a non-lapsing **Record Retention Expendable Trust** and raise and appropriate **twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)** for digitizing the Town of New Boston's records that require long term/permanent storage and to authorize the Selectmen as Agents to expend. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** 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 4-5-year undertaking. This will ensure the long-term security of the records, free up valuable space, especially at Town Hall, and make this information more readily accessible to employees and where appropriate, the public.

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **eleven thousand seven hundred dollars (\$11,700)** for the first of a five-year appropriation request for providing **body cameras for the Police Department**. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** This Warrant Article reflects a five-year commitment for a total cost of approximately \$58,500. The purpose is self-explanatory as this is a national topic throughout our law enforcement community.

**Article 19:** 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 event. (Selectboard recommend x-x, Finance Committee recommend x-x)

**Explanation of Article:** The Town's portion of funding in support of the Fourth of July celebration has traditionally been part of the operating budget. Due to the possibility of a default budget, it was determined that this funding would be better served as a separate appropriation placed before the voting public.

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$38,000) for the development of a conceptual design package for a new Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management (EM) facility in the Town of New Boston.

**Explanation of Article:** This Warrant Article is requesting funding to develop a conceptual design for a new fire station. A research and deeds study was completed by the fire station building committee over

seven years ago. As a result of public opinion by the voters and most recently by the Board of selectmen, the Board of Fire Wards heard the message and will revisit the design of the proposed station. To accomplish this part of the project, the first step is to develop a new conceptual design package. This package will include an updated needs assessment, conceptual design and presentation graphics. The completed plan will enable the project to be put out to bid once again and bring a new proposal back to the voters for consideration at the 2022 town meeting. A new committee will be formed to manage the process through completion of the project. The committee will incorporate representatives from town boards, private citizens and representatives from the fire department. Because the previously proposed warrant article planned for the 2021 town meeting did not get on the warrant, this petition warrant if approved, would be a prudent action to eliminate a lost year, subjecting the project to further increases.

**Submitted by Petition**

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