

TOWN WARRANT – 2024

NEWTON TOWN WARRANT 2024 The State of New Hampshire

THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Newton, in the County of Rockingham, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in town affairs; you are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of Newton will be held in accordance with NH RSA 40:13. The **first session**, to transact all business other than voting, is on **Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 9:00 AM to be held at the Newton Town Hall, 2 Town Hall Road, Newton, NH.** The **second session**, voting by official ballot at the polls, is on **Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, to be held at the Newton Fire Station, 8D Merrimac Road,** to choose all necessary Town officers for the ensuing year by official ballot, and to vote on all issues before the Town of Newton on the official ballot. The polls will open at 8:00 AM and will close no earlier than 8:00 PM.

1. To elect all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.
2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Warrant Article 2 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend SECTION – XXX -FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE as necessary to comply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.
3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's zoning ordinances as follows: amend SECTION XII - HOME OCCUPATIONS AND HOME-BASED BUSINESSES, subsection B, 2 to read: There shall be no outdoor activity or use, including storage and parking of commercial vehicles or trailers exceeding 26,000 GVW, except for the provision of employee parking.

4. Road Reconstruction Bond

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000,000 (Gross Budget) to reconstruct approximately twenty-three miles of roads deemed in need of reconstruction as more particularly identified on the 2024 Proposed Road Reconstruction List derived from the Road Management Study of 2024, which list is dated January 26, 2024 and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes therefore of not more than \$5,000,000 in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and other conditions of the bonds or notes in their judgement, it being further understood that payment of the bond may exceed the project completion date. The overall bonding authority will not lapse until the project is completed but that the project will be completed by December 31, 2034, in annual increments, borrowing for which shall not exceed \$1,000,000 in any given year, and to take all other action relative thereto. This is a special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(3/5 Ballot Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.088

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5. Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Newton raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,519,182. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,411,588, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Newton 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.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
The proposed operating budget has an estimated tax impact of \$0.57
The default budget has an estimated tax impact of \$0.40

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6. Recreation Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Recreation Revolving Fund, previously established, to fund programs including a part time coordinator position. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

7. Lease of Town Owned Land

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey an easement, license, or leasehold interest on a portion of the property owned by the Town of Newton located behind the transfer station, identified as Tax Map 10, Block 7 Lot 5-1, with access from Maple Avenue, for a period not to exceed 20 years for the purposes of constructing, installing, and operating a communications tower, in such dimensions and under such terms and consideration as the Board of Selectmen, in its discretion, deems suitable, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute such related contracts and agreements related to such communications tower. Such authority shall not lapse and shall remain effective until December 31, 2025. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

8. Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund established in 2006. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

9. Police Cruisers and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to be deposited into the Police Cruisers and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established in 2021. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

10. Fire Apparatus and Equipment / Refurbishment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Fire Apparatus and Equipment / Refurbishment Capital Reserve Fund established in 2005 and amended in 2011. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

11. Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35, to be known as the Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing, maintaining, repairing, and improving or replacing the Town's Highway Department vehicles and equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in the fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from such fund. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

12. Town Anniversary Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Fund, pursuant to RSA 35, which will be known as the Town Anniversary Revolving Fund and raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be placed in this fund the purpose of which shall be to support the celebration of the town's 275th anniversary and future anniversaries and appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

13. Cyclical Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35 to be known as the Cyclical Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding the five-year property valuation pursuant to NH RSA 75:8-a and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in the fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from such fund. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

14. Highway Construction Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be deposited into the Highway Construction Revolving Fund. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Account. Majority vote required.

This article is contingent upon Article 4; if the Town Meeting approves Article 4, then this Article shall be null and void.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

15. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Compensation

To see if the Town will vote to approve, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 41:25, in lieu of base salary and fees, to change the compensation of the Town Clerk & Tax Collector to a Salary basis only, with all fees collected being returned to the town, and to authorize the Select Board to make subsequent adjustments to the Town Clerk & Tax Collector’s salary on an annual basis, to be effective immediately following March 2024 elections. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

16. Social Service Agencies

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand three hundred sixty-three dollars (\$30,363) for the Social Service Agencies listed below. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

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| AREA HOMECARE & FAMILY SERVICES | \$ 3,800.00 |
| CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER | 2,000.00 |
| DRUGS ARE DANGEROUS | 2,500.00 |
| HAVEN | 3,050.00 |
| NHSPCA | 750.00 |
| ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION | 5,000.00 |
| ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION MEALS ON WHEELS | 2,927.00 |
| ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION MEALS ON WHEELS TRANSPORTATION | 700.00 |
| SOROCK COALITION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH | 4,936.00 |
| VIC GEARY CENTER | 2,700.00 |
| WAYPOINT | <u>2,000.00</u> |
| | \$30,363.00 |

This article is contingent upon Article 5; if the Town Meeting approves Article 5, this Article shall be null and void.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.047

17. Fire and Rescue Ambulance Program Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Fund under the provisions of RSA 35 to be known as the Fire and Rescue Ambulance Program Revolving Fund for the purpose of employee wages, training, and maintaining the necessary equipment to provide town operated, 24-hour fire and ambulance services to the town and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$233,720 to be placed in the fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from such fund. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article *by a vote of 5-0*.
This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.36

18. Cemetery Trustees Stipend

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200 for the purpose of providing an annual \$400 stipend to each of the three Cemetery Trustees. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Account. Majority vote required.

If this article passes these funds will be part of the Cemetery operating budget in subsequent years.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

19. Contingency Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 31:98- a, for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate \$40,000 to put in the fund. Said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

20. Town Cisterns and Fire Ponds Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Town Cisterns and Fire Ponds Capital Reserve Fund established in 2023. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has no tax impact.

21. Lake Host Program (by petition)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to support a Lake Host Program at the Newton Town Boat Ramp for the 2024 summer season. The Lake Host Program is a collaborative effort between NH Department of Environmental Services, NH LAKES, and local lake associations. It trains and employs individuals to provide courtesy boat inspections to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plants, such as milfoil, from one lake to another thereby protecting public lake uses such as swimming, fishing, and boating. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.
This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.005

Given under our hands and seal this 29th day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Robert Marchand, Jr., Chairman

Michael Connolly, Vice-Chairman

Daniel Guide

Joseph Simone

Matthew A. Burrill

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Note: This warrant was amended at the Deliberative Session on February 3, 2024)