



Office of the Board of Selectmen
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NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2019 TOWN BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES
DATE: MONDAY, January 14, 2019
TIME: 7:00PM
LOCATION: NEWTON TOWN HALL, 2 TOWN HALL ROAD
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Donovan opened the Public Hearing on the 2019 Town Budget and Warrant Articles at 7:00pm.

Chairman Donovan read the following from the 2019 Town Warrant:

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 14, 2019 beginning at 7:00pm at the Newton Town Hall, 2 Town Hall Road, Newton, NH for the following:

In accordance with RSA 32:5, notice is hereby given to all residents of Newton, New Hampshire, that a Public Hearing for the purpose of gathering public input on the proposed 2019 Town Budget and Warrant Articles will be held on Monday, January 14, 2019 at the Newton Town Hall starting at 7:00pm. Snow date is Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00pm. The public is encouraged to attend.

Selectman Gonyer read the following from the 2019 Town Warrant:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Newton, N.H. in the County of Rockingham, in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs; you are hereby notified to meet for the first session of the annual meeting, which shall be for the explanation, discussion and debate of each warrant article and the transaction of all business other than voting by official ballot to be held at the Newton Town Hall on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 9:00AM; the second session to be held at the Newton Town Hall, in said Newton, on Tuesday, the twelfth day of March next, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, 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 to be open at eight o'clock in the forenoon and to close not earlier than eight o'clock in the evening.

Warrant Article # 1 as read by Selectman Gonyer

1. To elect all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Warrant Article # 2 as read by Selectman Doggett

2. "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 **\$3,341,078.00**? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,341,534.00 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.”

The estimated budget increase from the 2018 ACTUAL budget to the 2019 PROPOSED budget represents a tax impact increase of \$0.14 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value.

Selectman Gonyer stated the tax impact is incorrect. The correct amount is \$0.014 per \$1,000.00.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 2 as amended.

Warrant Article # 3 as read by Selectman Foote

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,200.00 to be deposited into the Engineering & Renovation Capital Reserve Fund created in 2015; said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This represents the Rental Fees received.

This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Gonyer explained that the funds come from the rental income and are placed into the fund to be used for engineering and renovation of the land and buildings. Selectman Burrill stated that there is no tax impact to the tax payers.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 3.

Warrant Article # 4 as read by Selectman Burrill

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Cemetery Trustees, the sum of \$25,000.00 to pave the “horseshoe” driveway at the Highland Cemetery and to authorize the withdrawal of \$10,000.00 from the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund created in 2016 for this purpose. The balance of \$15,000.00 is to be raised from general taxation.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.03 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes

Selectman Gonyer stated that there was an issue with the driveway being unpassable and that portion of the cemetery was closed to vehicles.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 4

Warrant Article #5 as read by Selectman Gonyer

5. To see if the Town will vote, as proposed by the Board of Selectmen and the Transfer Station Manager, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to purchase a Tractor and Equipment for the purpose of the daily operations at the Transfer Station with \$50,000.00 to come from the Transfer Station / Recycling Special Revenue Fund created in 2003 for this purpose.

This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes

Selectman Gonyer explained that the current tractor was not new when the Town received it and the cost to repair the tractor keeps rising. Selectman Doggett stated that the tractor was seized about 15 years ago through a drug forfeiture. Chairman Donovan stated that the current tractor is not large enough to be used effectively at the Transfer Station.

Resident Nancy Slombo asked what the tractor is used for. Chairman Donovan stated that it is used to move the brush pile, clear snow, compact the dumpsters and to lift large items into the dumpsters. Selectman Burrill stated that currently the tractor is not large enough to fully compact the dumpster which means the Town is paying more hauling fees for dumpsters that are not fully compacted.

Transfer Station Attendant Jack Kozec addressed the Board and reiterated that the tractor is used to compact the dumpsters and to assist residents with large bulk items.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 5.

Warrant Article #6 as read by Selectman Doggett

6. To see if the Town will vote, as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000.00** for the purpose of holding a **HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY, for Newton Residents only**, with \$25,000.00 to come from the Transfer Station / Recycling Special Revenue Fund created in 2003 for this purpose.

This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Doggett stated that the Town holds a Hazardous Waste Day every other year and the funds to pay for this comes from the Transfer Station / Recycling Special Revenue Fund. When residents and non-residents pay to have bulk items disposed of, the money goes into this fund.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 6.

Warrant Article #7 as read by Selectman Foote

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,189.00 for the following **Community Services.**

AREA HOMECARE & FAMILY SERVICES	\$ 3,800.00
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER	2,000.00
DRUGS ARE DANGEROUS	2,500.00
FAMILY MEDIATION	5,947.00
HAVEN	3,050.00
LAMPREY HEALTH CARE	1,600.00
NHSPCA	750.00
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION	5,000.00
ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION MEALS ON WHEELS	2,842.00
VIC GEARY CENTER	2,700.00
WAYPOINT (f/k/a CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES)	<u>2,000.00</u>
	\$32,189.00

This article would result in an estimated \$0.06 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Foote stated that these are services that the Town uses for residents. Resident Jim Baker addressed the Board and asked how the funds are allocated. Selectman Gonyer stated that the Town pays for actual usage of the services.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 7.

Warrant Article 8 as read by Selectman Burrill

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Recreation Commission the sum of **\$4,500.00** for Recreational Programs and **Trips for Newton Senior Citizens.**

This article would result in an estimated \$0.01 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Burrill stated that this is a very successful program for the seniors in Town.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 8.

Warrant Article #9 as read by Selectman Gonyer

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Recreation Commission the sum of \$12,000.00 to recruit, train and hire seasonal Part-time Lifeguards to oversee the safety of all swimmers at the Town Beach.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.02 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes

Selectman Burrill stated that in 2018 there was a shortage of certified lifeguards in New England. The Recreation Commission is recommending that the Town recruit, train and hire people to become certified lifeguards for part-time patrolling of the Town Beach.

Mr. Jim Baker addressed the Board and asked if the Town's insurer would cover the lifeguards. Selectman Burrill stated that the Town's insurer recommends hiring the lifeguards as Town employees.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 9.

Warrant Article #10 as read by Selectman Doggett

10. To see if the Town of Newton will vote to **dissolve** the **Capital Reserve Fund established in 2005 known as the "Safety Complex Building Fund"**. Said funds in the amount of **\$4,585.42**, plus accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, shall lapse to the Town's general fund.

This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Gonyer stated that the fund will no longer be used for its initial intent. Dissolving the fund will make the money available for other usage.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 10.

Warrant Article # 11 as read by Selectman Foote

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,585.00 to be deposited into the Engineering & Renovation of land and buildings at 8 Merrimac Road Capital Reserve Fund** created in 2015. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. If warrant article 10 does not pass, this article will be null and void.

This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Gonyer stated that the funds from Article 10 would be placed into the fund that can be used for buildings and land improvements, repairs and maintenance at 8 Merrimac Road.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 11

Warrant Article #12 as read by Selectman Burrill

12. To see if the Town will vote to **dissolve the Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1997 known as the "Town Hall Sprinkler Fund"**. Said funds in the amount of **\$1,541.91**, plus accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, shall lapse to the Town's general fund.

This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 12.

Warrant Article #13 as read by Selectman Gonyer

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,542.00 to be deposited into the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintenance, repairs and construction** created in 2006. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. If warrant article 12 does not pass, this article will be null and void.

This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Gonyer stated that the Town has tried several times to get the sprinkler system finished in the Town Hall but has not been successful.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 13.

Warrant Article # 14 as read by Selectman Doggett

14. To see if the Town will vote to **dissolve the Capital Reserve Fund, established in 2013 known as Emergency Operating Center for emergency operations, equipment, office supplies and payroll**. Said funds in the amount of **\$1.00** shall lapse to the Town's general fund.

This article would result in no increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Doggett explained that in 2013 at the Deliberative Session the amount was changed to \$1 and has never been funded.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 14.

Warrant Article 15 as read by Selectman Foote

15. To see if the Town will vote, as proposed by the Fire Chief, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund known as the "Fire Apparatus and Equipment / Refurbishment Fund" voted in 2011.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.10 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Foote explained that the fund is used to purchase new equipment. Chairman Donovan stated that the fund was used to offset the purchase of a new tanker and now the fund needs to be replenished.

Resident Annie Collyer asked what the balance of the fund is. Town Administrator Wrigley stated that as of 2017 the balance was \$2,589.69.

Captain Robert Zalenski addressed the Board. The Fire Department currently has 4 trucks that are over 20 years old. The plan is to replace the 4 trucks with 1 truck.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to recommend Article 15.

Selectman Burrill would like to hold the March 12, 2019 second session at the Fire/Rescue Station. Selectman Burrill stated that this year there is only one election and it usually has a lower voter turnout. It would be a good opportunity to test voting at the Fire /Rescue Station.

Selectman Doggett stated that there needs to be a hardwired network drop for one of the voting machines.

Selectman Gonyer stated that earlier at the Board of Selectmen meeting, there was concern expressed about not having enough parking should there be a snow storm. Selectman Burrill stated that he spoke with Police Chief Jewett and there would be no issues with parking.

Selectman Burrill would like to get the opinions of the Town Clerk and Town Moderator about holding the second session at the Fire/Rescue Station.

Chairman Donovan expressed concern that the Fire trucks would be outside during the election and would need to be cleared of snow before answering a call.

Supervisor of the Checklist, Barbara White, addressed the Board. The books that contain voter information need to be locked up after the election is over.

Ms. Collyer addressed the Board and asked that they coordinator with the school district should the polling place be changed.

Mr. Jim Baker addressed the Board and spoke of a letter the Board sent to State Officials concerning the flexibility of postponing elections. Selectman Burrill stated that no response was received. He has spoken to the newly elected representatives to make this a priority.

Selectman Doggett stated that the proposed 2019 Town budget is an increase of \$7,019.00 over the 2018 budget. The 2019 default budget is an increase of \$7,475.00 over 2018.

Chairman Donovan closed the public hearing at 7:43pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary