



Office of the Board of Selectmen
2 Town Hall Road, Newton, NH 03858
Tel: 382-4405 ext. 10 * Fax 382-9140
www.newton-nh.gov

NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2018 TOWN BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES
DATE: MONDAY, January 15, 2018
TIME: 7:15PM
LOCATION: NEWTON TOWN HALL, 2 TOWN HALL ROAD
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Burrill opened the Public Hearing on the 2018 Town Budget and Warrant Articles at 7:15pm.

Chairman Burrill read the following from the 2018 Town Warrant:

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 15, 2018 beginning at 7:15pm 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 2018 Town Budget and Warrant Articles will be held on Monday, January 15, 2018 at the Newton Town Hall starting at 7:15pm. Snow date is Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:15pm. The public is encouraged to attend.

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 3, 2018 at 9:00AM; the second session to be held at the Newton Town Hall, in said Newton, on Tuesday, the thirteenth 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 & 2 as read by Chairman Burrill

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

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 **\$3,334,058.87?** Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,368,281.87 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."

Selectman Gonyer stated the proposed budget is less than the default. Selectman Doggett stated that the proposed budget is about \$34,000.00 less than the default budget. Town Administrator Wrigley explained that the 87 cents is part of the Fire/Rescue Bond.

Selectman Gonyer moved to recommend Article 2 as written. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous vote.

Warrant Article # 3 as read by Selectman Doggett

3. To see if the Town will vote to amend the March 1967 vote to establish a seven (7) member Conservation Commission by decreasing the number of members from seven (7) to five (5) pursuant to the provisions of RSA 36-A:3.

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

Selectman Gonyer explained that the Conservation Commission has had a decrease in membership which is making it harder for the Commission to meet due to lack of a quorum. By decreasing the number of members needed, the Commission will be able to meet the quorum to hold meetings.

Selectman Doggett moved to recommend Article 3 as written. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous vote.

Warrant Article # 4 as read by Selectman Gonyer

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,700.00 from the unassigned fund balance for revenues generated from rental fees at 8 Merrimac Road, to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund created in 2015 for this purpose.

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. Chairman Burrill stated that there is no tax impact to tax payers.

Selectman Doggett moved to recommend Article 4 as written. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.

Warrant Article #5 as read by Selectman Donovan

5. To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Revolving Fund** for the Fire Department pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, I (c) for the purpose of "**Uniformed Fire Watch Details**"; situations that compromise the safety of the community, which require on-site fire personnel and apparatus solely for fire watch purposes, as deemed appropriate by the Fire Chief or his/her designee. The fee charged will be for the costs incurred by the Town providing the specific service and the income will be deposited into this fund, and shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall payout 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.

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

Chief Alcadinho addressed the Board and members of the Public. He explained that this article will allow the Town to recover expenses that occur during the Uniformed Fire Watch Details. Currently, the cost for the detail comes from the Fire Department's budget. This would allow the Town to use the fees collected to offset the Fire Department's incurred expenses for the incident.

Chief Alcadinho explained what a Uniformed Fire Watch Detail is. The detail is comprised of uniform personnel remaining on site until the issue is resolved. This also includes any equipment that may be needed at the site of the incident.

Selectman Doggett moved to recommend Article 5 as written. Seconded by Selectman Donovan with a unanimous vote.

Warrant Article #6 as read by Selectman Foote

6. To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Revolving Fund** for the Fire Department pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, I (c) for the purpose of "**Unanticipated Incident deemed Hazardous**"; unanticipated situation involving hazardous material(s) that compromises the safety of the community, which require on-site fire personnel, apparatus, and materials to confront the hazard, as deemed appropriate by the Fire Chief or his/her designee. The fee charged will be for the costs incurred by the Town providing the specific service and the income will be deposited into this fund, and shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall payout 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.

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

Chief Alcadinho explained that this article is similar to Article 5. It will allow the Fire Department to recover expenses for hazardous incidents that occur. Selectman Foote stated that this is common practice across the State.

Selectman Doggett moved to recommend Article 6 as written. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.

Warrant Article #7 as read by Selectman Doggett

7. Shall the Town of Newton **allow the operation of Keno Games** within the Town of Newton?

This article would result in a \$0.00 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Doggett moved to recommend Article 7 as written. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.

Warrant Article 8 as read by Selectman Gonyer

8. To see if the Town will vote **to adopt RSA 41:14-a, to allow the Selectmen to acquire or sell land, buildings or both;** provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the planning board and to the conservation commission for review and recommendation by those bodies. This article will remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote. (Majority vote required)

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

Chairman Burrill provided as an example the old fire station, once it is vacant the Board would have to wait until next year to place a warrant article on the ballot to sell the property. Meanwhile the property sits vacant and not generating any tax revenues. This article would allow the Board to put the property up for sale if the Planning Board and Conservation Commission recommend it.

Selectman Doggett would like "(Majority vote required)" be removed as all warrant articles need a majority vote.

Selectman Doggett moved to recommend Article 8 as amended. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer with a unanimous vote.

Warrant Article #9 as read by Selectman Donovan

9. To see if the Town will vote, as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$60,000.00** to be paid toward the **2018 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL BUDGET** as an offset to the disposal costs and to authorize the withdrawal of \$60,000.00 from the Transfer Station/Recycling Special Revenue Fund created in 2003 for this purpose. ***A "no" vote will result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes of \$0.00 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value.***

Chairman Burrill moved to postpone recommending Article 9 because the tax impact for a "no" vote is unknown. Selectman Gonyer seconded for discussion.

Selectman Gonyer stated that she is would like to recommend Article 9 as it will not increase the taxes.

The Board voted unanimously to postpone recommending Article 9 until the tax impact can be calculated.

Warrant Article #10 as read by Selectman Foote

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
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES	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
	\$32,189.00

This article would result in a \$0.00 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Gonyer asked Town Administrator Wrigley how much of an increase there was from 2017. Town Administrator Wrigley stated the amount was \$642.00 due to Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheel increase.

Mr. Kozec of Amesbury Road would like to have a representative from each organization at the deliberative session to speak about their services provided to the Town. Town Administrator Wrigley stated that each organization submits a year end report which is included in the Town's annual report. Selectman Doggett suggested that every 10 years each organization be its own warrant article. This will allow the voters to choose which organizations the Town should support. Chairman Burrill suggested that the Welfare Agent be present at the deliberative session to give a short presentation about the services provided by each organization.

Police Chief Jewett addressed the Board and members of the public. The Police Department uses several of these organization some on a daily basis and others monthly.

Selectman Donovan moved to not recommend any articles where there might be a tax impact. Seconded by Selectman Doggett with a unanimous vote.

Warrant Article # 11 as read by Selectman Doggett

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Recreation Commission the sum of **\$4,200.00** for Recreational Programs and **Trips for Newton Senior Citizens**.

This article would result in a \$0.00 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Selectman Gonyer asked if the amount requested is the same as 2017. Recreation Chairman St. Cyr stated that it is the same amount. Both Selectman Donovan and Doggett provided a brief history of how this program came about and that it touches many Senior residents.

Warrant Article #12 as read by Selectman Gonyer

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Recreation Commission, the sum of **\$12,000.00 to hire two Part-Time Lifeguards** to oversee the safety of young swimmers at the Town Beach between May 2018 and September 2018.

This article would result in a \$0.00 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Recreation Chairman St. Cyr, as a user of the Town Beach, would like to see lifeguards to ensure safety of all beach goers.

Selectman Gonyer asked if the Recreation Commission will be offering swimming lessons. Mr. St. Cyr stated that the Recreation Commission wanted to keep the cost low so no lessons will be offered this year.

Selectman Doggett asked how many hours a day would there be lifeguards. Mr. St. Cyr replied that the coverage would be 8 hours a day for 12 weeks. Selectman Doggett would like to get a letter from the Town's insurance about concerning lifeguards and liability.

Mr. Kozec would like to see the wording changed. The wording can be changed at the deliberative session. He also asked why the lifeguards were removed. Town Administrator Wrigley stated lifeguards were removed due to cost.

Warrant Article #13 as read by Selectman Donovan

13. 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 a \$0.00 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Chief Alcadinho stated that the fund is to be used to assist in the purchase of new equipment. He stated that age is catching up with the equipment. Selectman Doggett asked if the name of the fund is correct. Town Administrator Wrigley explained that the fund was amended to cover purchases and refurbishment of fire apparatus. Town Administrator Wrigley will confirm that the fund can be used to purchase fire apparatus.

Ms. Riordan of Brennan Drive asked for the fund balance. Town Administrator stated the balance was \$2,500.00

Warrant Article # 14 as read by Selectman Foote

14. To see if the Town of Newton will allow the Newton Fire Department to enforce a Life Safety initiative that would require all buildings or structures occupied in whole or in part for residential purposes and or commercial purposes upon the sale, transfer or rental of such building or structure, and shall be equipped by the seller or owner with approved smoke detectors and approved carbon monoxide detectors as referenced in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 & 101; RSA 153:10-a; Saf-C 6000. The Newton Fire Department or it's designee shall enforce the provisions of this town ordinance.

This article would result in a \$0.00 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Chief Alcadinho stated that the Fire Department is working to make a safer community at no cost to the tax payers. Selectman Doggett asked is there a code that a smoke detector must meet. Chief Alcadinho stated that it would depend on when the structure was built with the minimum being battery operated installed smoke detectors.

Chairman Burrill asked if he would need to have the Fire Department inspect his property should he decided to rent or sell it. Chief Alcadinho affirmed that would be the process.

Selectman Gonyer asked how will the Fire Department know when a property has changed owners. Chief Alcadinho stated it would be up the property owner to notify the Fire Department. The Fire Department has been working with Building Department to do safety inspections.

Selectman Gonyer asked what enforcing means. Chief Alcadinho stated it gives the Fire Department the right to enter a property to perform a safety inspection. It does not mean that the Fire Department will remain on site until the issue is resolved. It could mean that an occupancy permit may be denied. Ultimately, it is the property owner's responsibility to correct the issue.

Selectman Doggett moved to recommend Article 14 as written. Seconded by Selectman Foote. Burrill—nay, Gonyer—nay, Donovan—aye, Foote—aye, Doggett-aye

Warrant Article 15 as read by Selectman Doggett

15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to allow Commercial Haulers to deliver Household Waste and Recyclables generated by Newton Residents to the Transfer Station and to set such terms and conditions as they deem reasonable, appropriate and in the best interest of the Town.

This article would result in a \$0.00 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Mr. St. Cyr stated that this article would allow the Board of Selectmen to create a policy to allow commercial haulers to pick up trash from Newton residents only and dispose of them at the Transfer Station. Selectman Gonyer stated that the Board drafted a policy that could be implemented should this article pass.

Mr. St. Cyr stated that the next step would be to establish a pilot program and make changes to the policy as needed.

Chairman Burrill stated that on last year warrant the voters gave the Board the authority to pursue a feasibility study.

Chairman Burrill moved to remove warrant article 15 from the Town's Warrant. Seconded by Selectman Foote for discussion.

Selectman Gonyer stated that if article 15 is removed there would be no commercial haulers allowed until a warrant article was brought before the voters in 2019. Chairman Burrill disagrees and that he believes the Town did vote to authorize the Board to implement if feasible.

Mr. Roger Hamel of Spruce Lane addressed the Board and members of the public. He read the warrant article from 2017 which states that the Board can implement a policy.

Mr. Kozec stated that the wording of the article is not clear. He also believes that allowing commercial haulers would not be feasible. Selectman Gonyer stated that the draft policy was reviewed by Transfer Station Manager DiFalco for his input.

Upon further discussion the Board unanimously voted to remove article 15 from the 2018 Town's Warrant.

Warrant Article 16 as read by Selectman Foote

16. On a petition of 25 or more legal voters, to see if the Town will vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to issue to each tax paying household of Newton, NH, one (1) voucher per year to be used at the Newton Transfer Station for a one time drop off, of bulk items at no cost. The voucher would be issued each year in the month of January starting in 2019 and continuing each year until revoked by a vote of the residents.

This article would result in a \$0.00 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

Mr. Kozec sponsored the article and spoke to the article. He works part-time at the Transfer Station and hears from residents that they would like the vouchers system restored. Selectman Foote asked if the vouchers expire. Town Administrator Wrigley stated that the vouchers expire after a year.

Selectman Doggett asked what is the loss in revenue. Mr. Kozec stated that he does not think residents will complain about loss revenue. Selectman Gonyer stated that the loss would affect hazardous waste in one or two ways: 1) would be to eliminate hazardous waste or 2) have a warrant article every other year that would pay for the hazardous waste through taxes and not from the Transfer Station/Recycling Special Revenue Fund.

Chairman Burrill emphasized that recycling helps keeps the cost down for trash hauling.

Mr. Hamel stated that this article is similar to the Veteran's Tax Credit which was approved by the Town in 2017. The tax impact was unknown because it would depend on how many Veteran's applied for the credit. The voucher program would be similar in that there is no way to know how much bulky items would be taken in at the Transfer Station. Therefore, the tax impact will not be known until the following year.

Selectman Doggett state that if the article passes, the Board will need to adopt a policy.

The discussion turned to the wording of the article "tax paying household" and how to define it. The wording can be changed at the deliberative session. The intent is to provide vouchers to residents only and not to household that rent.

Selectman Doggett moved to recommend article 16 as written. Seconded by Selectman Foote. Burrill—aye, Donovan—aye, Foote—aye, Doggett-aye, Gonyer—nay. Selectman Gonyer is not in favor as written.

Chairman Burrill closed the public hearing at 8:42pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary