

TOWN WARRANT – 2020

**TOWN WARRANT
2020
The State of New Hampshire**

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

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 1, 2020 at 9:00 AM; the second session to be held at the Newton Town Hall, in said Newton, on Tuesday, the tenth 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.

1. To elect all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.
2. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 1** in the Town of Newton to amend the Newton Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Expiration of variances and special exceptions granted prior to 2013.

In Section X add the following:

13. As authorized by State of NH RSA 674:33 I-a, Variances granted on or after August 19, 2013 shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from the date of final approval. Variances granted before August 19, 2013 shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from March 11, 2021.

14. As authorized by State of NH RSA 674:33 IV, Special Exceptions granted on or after August 19, 2013 shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from the date of final approval. Special Exceptions granted before August 19, 2013 shall be valid only if exercised within two (2) years from March 11, 2021.

THE PLANNING BOARD DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

3. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 2** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Newton Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Rezoning Old Fire Station from Residential to Commercial.

In Appendix D – Commercial Zone – Parcel List, add the following:

South Main Street: **Map 12 Block 1 Lot 11**

THE PLANNING BOARD DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

4. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 3** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Newton Zoning Ordinance as follows?

Amend general zoning provisions to automatically use most current building codes and fire codes.

In Section X add the following:

12. Building Safety

- a. The State Building Codes are RSA 155A (International Building Code) and **current** Saf-C 6000 (State Fire Code). These codes are the statewide minimum requirements, which shall serve as the building code for the Town of Newton.
- b. All new construction for residential or commercial use, shall be equipped by the owner with approved smoke detectors / carbon monoxide detectors as per **current** National Fire Protection Assoc. (NFPA) 72 101; RSA 153:10-a VI; Saf-C 6000 and shall be inspected and approved by the Newton Fire Chief or his/her designee.

THE PLANNING BOARD DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

5. On a petition of 25 or more legal voters, are you in favor of adopting the changes to the Town of Newton Zoning Ordinances as follow:

Petitioned Proposal – Reduction of setbacks on Light Industrial / Commercial Properties

In Section XXV.1 Location on Lot: delete the following:

- a. Side yard 200-foot structural setback with a minimum 50-foot undisturbed natural buffer when any other zone. Any additional buffer that may be required by the Planning Board up to but not exceeding 1,500 feet for a side yard that abuts any other zone.
- b. Rear yard 200-foot structural setback with a minimum 50-foot undisturbed natural buffer when abutting any other zone. Any additional buffer that may be required by the Planning Board up to but not exceeding 1,500 feet for a rear yard that abuts any other zone, plus adequate provision for off-street parking as determined by the Planning Board.
- c. No building shall be set within 75-feet of the centerline of the street nor within 50 feet of any lot line within the Light Industrial / Commercial Zone.

And replace with the following:

1. **Side yard 50-foot setback with a minimum 25-foot undisturbed natural buffer when abutting any other zone.**
2. **Rear and front yard 50-foot setback with a minimum 25-foot undisturbed natural buffer when abutting any other zone.**
3. **No building shall be set within 50 feet of the centerline**

THE PLANNING BOARD DOES NOT RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-1-1

6. “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 **\$3,604,090.00**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,516,932.00, 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 2019 ACTUAL budget to the 2020 PROPOSED budget represents a tax impact increase of \$0.51 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value.

Default Budget would result in an estimated tax impact increase of \$0.34 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-1

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,200.00** to be deposited into the **Engineering & Renovation of the Land and Buildings located at 8 Merrimac Road, 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.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

8. To see if the Town will vote, as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,300.00** to **increase the Town Treasurer Salary** from \$6,200.00 to \$7,500.00 due to the increase of accounts, hours of work and additional responsibilities. (Last increase was 1996)

This article would result in an estimated \$0.003 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

9. Shall the Town **modify and expand the purpose of the Cable Access Revolving Fund to allow for funding of the Town’s Information Technology?** 100% of the amount of revenues received as stated in the cable contract for cable access, including Franchise Fees, or as determined by the legislative body, will be deposited in 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 unassigned fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the 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. This revolving fund was established in (2013) to provide Cable Access for public, educational or governmental use.

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

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

10. To see if the Town will vote to **modify the Elderly Exemption** from property tax in the Town of Newton, based on the assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for the person 65 years of age up to 74 years of age **\$100,000**; for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years of age **\$110,000**; for a person 80 years of age or older **\$125,000**. To qualify, the applicant must have resided in this state for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such a person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$35,000 if single, or, if married, a combined net income of no greater than \$45,000, and own net assets not in excess of **\$85,000** excluding the value of the person's residence.

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

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Town Administrator, the sum of **\$34,400.00 for Tax Map Conversion, Updating and Recompilation Services**. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Map Conversion is completed or by December 31, 2025.

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

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

12. 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 **2020 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL BUDGET** as an offset to the recycling and disposal costs, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$60,000 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.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$26,327.00** for the following **Community Services**:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| AREA HOMECARE & FAMILY SERVICES | \$ 3,800.00 |
| CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER | 2,000.00 |
| DRUGS ARE DANGEROUS | 2,500.00 |
| 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 | 2,927.00 |
| VIC GEARY CENTER | 2,700.00 |
| WAYPOINT (f/k/a CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES) | <u>2,000.00</u> |
| | \$26,327.00 |

This article would result in an estimated \$0.051 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

14. 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 \$0.009 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Recreation Commission, the sum of **\$15,750.00 to hire three Part-Time Lifeguards, one Part-Time Supervisor of Lifeguards, and to purchase the necessary Safety Equipment,** to oversee the safety of all swimmers at the Town Beach between May 2020 and September 2020.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.031 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Board of Selectmen the sum of **\$1.00 for a Sign at the Street Entrance of the Safety Complex** located at 8 Merrimac Road.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.000 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 3-1

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Board of Selectmen the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be deposited into the **Engineering & Renovation of the Land and Buildings located at 8 Merrimac Road, Capital Reserve Fund,** created in 2015.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.049 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-0

18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a ten year lease/purchase agreement to purchase a fully equipped Rescue Pumper for the Fire Department at a cost of **\$649,000.00,** payable over a term of 10 years at a rate of \$76,744.14 annually, and to raise and appropriate \$76,744.14 for the first year's payment. The full cost of the vehicle is \$669,000.00; the amount of the lease reflects the trade-in value of the vehicles being replaced.

This agreement does contain an escape clause. (Majority vote required.)

This article would result in an estimated \$0.15 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-0

19. If article 18 fails, 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.

If warrant article 18 passes, this article is null and void.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.098 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-1

20. To see if the Town will vote, as proposed by the Board of Selectmen and the Police Chief, to **establish a Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be known as the “**POLICE CRUISERS AND EQUIPMENT FUND**” for the purpose of maintenance, repairs and purchase of cruisers and equipment; and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be placed in this fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as Agents.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.049 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

21. To see if the Town will vote to **accept the donation of a former Newton 1941 Fire Truck** to be used for special events and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$750.00** for maintenance and repairs to the truck.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.001 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-1

22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be placed in the **Capital Reserve Fund** called **ROAD SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS**.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.049 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500.00** to **remove and install a new Flagpole at the Gale Library**, located at 16 South Main Street.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.007 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES NOT RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-0

24. On a petition of 25 or more legal voters, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000.00** to **upgrade and replace Greenie Park Playground Equipment** and add proper safety surfacing. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Greenie Park Playground upgrade is completed or by December 31, 2025.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.049 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-0

25. On a petition of 25 or more legal voters, shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,936.00** (\$1 per person) based on the population numbers provided in the 2017 Census American Community Survey, **to support the substance misuse prevention, suicide prevention and community wellness services of the SoRock Coalition for Healthy Youth.** SoRock’s work promotes wellness and nurtures resiliency for the children, youth and families of Newton as well as surrounding communities. SoRock works through coordinating community education, programming & resources and collaborating with federal and state agencies to help direct additional resources to the towns they serve.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.010 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

26. On a petition of 25 or more legal voters, shall the Town of Newton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000.00** to support a **LAKE HOST PROGRAM** at the Newton Town **BOAT RAMP** for the 2020 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.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.002 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 4-0

Given under our hands and seal this 20th day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty.

Lisa L. Gonyer, Chairman

James L. Doggett, Vice-Chairman

Lawrence B. Foote

Matthew A. Burrill

Kathryn Michaels

BOARD OF SELECTMEN