

## 2022 Town Meeting Minutes

To the inhabitants of the Town of Wentworth, in Grafton County, in the State of New Hampshire, who are qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified and warned that the election of Town Officers of the said Town of Wentworth will be held at the Wentworth Elementary School, 1247 Mt. Moosilauke Highway, Route 25, Wentworth, N.H., on Tuesday March 8, 2022. The polls will be open at 11 A.M. and close at 7 P.M. to bring in your votes on Article 1 (Election of Town Officers). All other articles will be presented, discussed, and acted upon on Saturday, March 12, 2022, beginning at 1 P.M., the meeting for said purpose to be held at said Wentworth Elementary School.

### **Article 01 Election of Officers**

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (By Official Ballot).

March 8, 2022 brought out 156 voters and the following were elected:

Selectman 3 years – Richard Ducheneau Sr.  
Selectman 2 years – Sonia Scheller  
Planning Board 3 years - Duane Brown  
Planning Board 3 years – Omer C. Ahern Jr.  
Supervisor of the Checklist 6 years - Susan Bliss  
Town Moderator 2 years - Stephen Welch  
Town Auditor 1 year - Donna King  
Cemetery Trustee 3 years - Francis Muzzey  
Treasurer 3 years - Deborah VlK  
Library Trustee 3 years - Sharon Sanborn  
Town Trustee 3 years - Linda Franz  
Fire Commissioners 1 year - R. Peter Chierichetti  
Fire Commissioners 1 year – Brian A. DuBois  
Fire Commissioners 1 year – Jeffrey Ames

**Motion to Accept: Paul Davis**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Brian DuBois**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by Voice Vote**

### **Article 02 Receive Reports**

To receive reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Treasurer, Auditors, and other Town Officers, and to vote on any motion relating to those reports.

**Motion to Accept: Bernice Sullivan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by Voice Vote**

**Article 03      Broadband Infrastructure Bond**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,505,200** (one million, five hundred five thousand two hundred dollars) for the purpose of funding broadband infrastructure; \$1,505,200 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The Select Board recommends this action. A 3/5 (three fifths) ballot vote is required.

**Motion to accept: Andrew Lasser**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Jenn Meade**

**Arnie Scheller explained how 80% of the town wanted broadband and how it came down to NHEC and Consolidated**

**Leo Dwyer of the NHEC explained they did not need a bond and that they were coming to this area with broadband in a matter of months. He also explained there will be grants and they would apply for them. They are coming here grants or not.**

**Eric Garr, President of Consolidated Communications wants us to take out a bond and spoke of grants available for that. Rick Borger Jr. asked who was going to pay as it the article states "raise and appropriate"?**

**Arnie explained it would come from the subscribers.**

**Francis stated that we should not go for the bond as it would cost us 11.47 on our taxes**

**Several people shared that they had bad experiences with Consolidated. Eric explained that they are improving Customer Service.**

**Jeff Ames stated that the co-op gets to his emergencies fast.**

**Lots of conversation on this article**

**Rick Borger Jr. made a motion to table the article**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Francis Muzzey**

**Tabled by hand count, yes=85, no=1**

**Article was tabled**

**Article 04      General Municipal Operations**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$353,844** for General Municipal Operations for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant. This article does not include any amounts contained in any other article.

**Motion to accept: Jenn Meade**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Lasser**

**Duane Brown asked about budget line 4194.1.7, Security. Was told it was for building security (alarm)**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by Voice Vote**

**Article 05      Planning Board**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,500** for the Planning Board in connection with its activities for such purposes and such uses as deemed necessary by said Planning Board.

**Motion to accept: Duane Brown**

**2<sup>nd</sup> John Meade**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 06      Historical Society**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500** for the maintenance and expenses associated the Wentworth Historical Society Museum and the grounds on which it stands

**Motion to accept: Morgan Currier**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis**

**Francis Muzzey asked who authorized \$1200 budget to go over by \$400 (\$1600). Linda Franz explained it was for maintenance behind the building. Francis stated it should have come from the Historical Societies money.**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 07      Police Department**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,976** for the maintenance of the Police Department for the ensuing year for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant. Please note that \$8,800 will be funded by the Police Revolving Fund, and the balance of \$92,176 is to come from general taxation.

**Motion to accept: Andrew Lasser**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Linda Franz**

**No questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 08      Police Cruiser**

To see if the town will vote to purchase a 2022 Ford Expedition full-sized, fully equipped police cruiser for the sum of **\$57,900**. The monies will come out of the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, and nothing from general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

**Motion to accept: Paul Davis Jr.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis Sr.**

**No questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 09      Animal and Pest Control**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000** for the expenses associated with Animal and Pest Control.

**Motion to accept: Kevin Mack**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Quentin Mack**

**No questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 10      Ambulance Services**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$105,000** for the operating expenses associated with Ambulance Services.

**Motion to accept: Francis Muzzey**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Brian DuBois**

**A lot of conversation**

**Chuck Sackett was introduced as the Board of Directors for the Ambulance Service.**

**Sonia Scheller asked why their AR went down by 50% and stated that she had a problem with this money going to a private company**

**Chuck explained that 85% of people refused to go to the hospital because of covid from 2018-2020.**

**Patti Welch asked if there were other ambulance services. Arnie said we were looking into it.**

**Duane Brown stated the Warren/Wentworth ambulance service has been awesome and that the response time is 3-5 minutes. He also offered to drive.**

**Billing practices were discussed and Mr. Sackett stated he would be billing for everything even non-transport.**

**Richard Borger Jr. wants to keep ambulance service but cost is excessive. Asked if amount could be amended**

**Jordan King suggested we shop around for more options**

**Francis Muzzey asked to amend the article**

**Motion To read the amendment: Francis Muzzey**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis Jr.**

**Hand vote Yes=43 No=34**

**Amendment was read: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$105,000 for the operating expenses associated with WWAS**

**Move article to vote on amendment.**

**Yes=58, No=25**

**Amended article passed by Paper Vote per petition of 5 residents (Omer C Ahern Jr., Duane Brown, Michael Leviss, Samuel Brown, and Francis Muzzey) for secret ballot**

**Article 11      Fire Department**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$44,250** for the maintenance of the Fire Department for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant, with \$5,500 coming from unassigned fund balance and \$38,750 from general taxation.

**Motion to accept: Brian DuBois**

2<sup>nd</sup>: Arlene Patten

No questions or comments

Re-read Article

PASSED by voice vote

**Article 12 Highway and Streets**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$384,730** for Highway and Streets for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant, with \$9,796 coming from unassigned fund balance, \$58,000 from highway block grant and \$316,934 from general taxation.

**Motion to accept: Brian DuBois**

2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis Sr.

Francis Muzzey said the warrant article was improperly stated

Because the block grant comes quarterly from the state

Re-read Article

PASSED by voice vote

**Article 13 Western Star**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to continue with the second year of the seven (7)-year lease agreement for the purpose of leasing a 2022 Western Star 4700SF Dump/Plow Truck for the Highway Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$28,489** for the said second year payment for that purpose. The lease agreement does not contain an escape clause. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

**Motion to accept: Alexandria Reilly-Collette**

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sonia Scheller

No questions or comments

Re-read Article

PASSED by voice vote

**Article 14 Transfer Station**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$82,800** for the purpose of disposal and hauling of solid waste and cost of maintenance for the Town Transfer Station, said amount to come from general taxation.

**Motion to accept: Andrew Lasser**

2<sup>nd</sup>: Rick Ducheneau

There was some discussion about recycling.

Re-read Article

PASSED by voice vote

**Article 15 Parks and Recreation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,600** for the Parks and Recreation for the general maintenance of parks including the Common, Library, Riverside Park, and Hamilton Memorial Field.

**Motion to accept: Paul Davis Jr.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Jenn Meade**

**No questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 16      Conservation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,000** to be expended on behalf of the Conservation Commission and Town Forest in connection with activities for such conservation as set forth in RSA 36-A and expenses related to the forester.

**Motion to accept: Paul Davis Jr.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Sonia Scheller**

**No questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 17      Town Forests**

To see if the Town will vote to establish as Town Forest under RSA 31:110 the Plummer Town Forest Map8 Lot11 Sub32 consisting of 130.57± acres, the Van Deusen parcel Map8 Lot11 Sub33 consisting of 35.5± acres, the Turner and Buffalo Road parcel Map11 Lot6 Sub19 consisting of 15.31± acres and the North Dorchester parcel Map12 Lot2 Sub6 consisting of 1.1± acres. To authorize the conservation commission to manage the town forest(s) under the provision of RSA 31:112. To authorize the placement of any proceeds that may accrue from this forest management in a separate forest maintenance fund, which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year as provided by RSA 31:113.

Goals of this warrant are to (1) sets official municipal policy on the intended use of the property, (2) income from management of the forests will remain in a separate fund for future use, (3) allows the conservation commission to be managers.

**Motion to accept: Linda Brownson**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Bernice Sullivan**

**A motion**

**Motion for Amendment: Nancy Masterson**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis Sr.**

**Amendment was read**

**All in favor to amend article as read**

**Hand count 68=yes, 2=no**

**Legality issues were raised on the Plummer Trust**

**Jordan King responded with information on the Plummer Trust**

**Motion to move article: Jordan King**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Francis Muzzey**

**Amended article was re-read:**

To see if the Town will vote to establish as Town Forest under RSA 31:110 the Plummer Town Forest Map8 Lot11 Sub32 consisting of 130.57± acres, the Van Deusen parcel Map8 Lot11 Sub33 consisting of 35.5± acres, the Turner and Buffalo Road parcel Map11 Lot6 Sub19 consisting of 15.31± acres and the North Dorchester parcel Map12 Lot2 Sub6 consisting of 1.1± acres. To authorize the conservation commission to manage the town forest(s) under the provision of RSA 31:112. To authorize the placement of any proceeds that may accrue from this forest management with the exception of the Plummer Forest which has an existing managed trust fund that that directs proceeds to the library and three cemeteries in a separate forest maintenance fund, which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year as provided by RSA 31:113.

Goals of this warrant are to (1) sets official municipal policy on the intended use of the property, (2) income from management of the forests will remain in a separate fund for future use, (3) allows the conservation commission to be managers.

**Amended Article passed by Voice Vote**

**Article 18 . ETF & CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$94,100** to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from 2022 general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Webster Memorial Library EFT (established 2015) \$10,000

Fire Truck CRF (established 1984) \$25,000

Police Cruiser CRF (established 1993) \$9,000

Property Revaluation CRF (established 1995) \$5,000

Highway Equipment and Vehicles CRF (established 1973) \$25,000

Town Office Expansion ETF (established 2017) \$15,000

Town Hall Maintenance and repairs CRF (established 2000) \$5,000

Celebration ETF (established 2018) \$100

**Motion to accept: Jenn Meade**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Jeff Ames**

**No questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 19 ETF & CRF from Fund Balance**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$400,000** to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from the unassigned fund balance and nothing from general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Town Bridges ETF (established 2006) \$200,000

Road Paving CRF (established 2002) \$50,000

Fire Department Site EFT (established 2004) \$150,000

**Motion to accept: Andrew Lasser**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Tracy Currier**

**Francis Muzzey made a motion to amend**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Michael Leviss**

**Amendment to read:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from the unassigned fund balance and nothing from general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

Town Bridges ETF (established 2006) \$100,000

Road Paving CRF (established 2002) \$25,000

Fire Department Site EFT (established 2004) \$75,000

**Motion to vote on amended article: Jeff Ames**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Morgan Currier**

**Re-read amended article**

**Hand count in favor =4, opposed =56**

**Amendment failed**

**Original Article was read**

**Hand count in favor =60**

**Opposed =1**

**Passed by hand vote**

**No questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 20      Road Paving-Turner**

To see if the Town will vote to pave a section of Turner Road for the sum of **\$76,398**. The monies will come out of the Road Paving Capital Reserve Fund, and nothing from general taxation. The Selectboard recommends this action by majority vote.

**Motion: Andrew Lasser**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Arlene Patten**

**An amendment was presented:**

To see if the Town will vote to pave a section of Turner Road for the sum of **\$91,000 (Ninety One Thousand Dollars)**. The monies will come out of the Road Paving Capital Reserve Fund, and nothing from general taxation.

**Motion: Patti Welch**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Susan Judd**

**Lots of discussion**



**Paul Manson suggested we vote no on article 21 for this year**

**Reread Amendment to Article:**

To see if the Town will vote to pave a section of Turner Road for the sum of **\$91,000 (Ninety One Thousand Dollars)**. The monies will come out of the Road Paving Capital Reserve Fund, and nothing from general taxation.

**Amended article passed by voice vote**

**Article 21 Road Paving-North Dorchester**

To see if the Town will vote to pave a section of North Dorchester Road for the sum of **\$125,842**. The monies will come out of the Road Paving Capital Reserve Fund, and nothing from general taxation. The Selectboard recommends this action by majority vote.

**Motion to accept: Paul Davis Sr.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis Jr.**

**No questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**All opposed by voice vote**

**Did not pass**

**Article 22 Town Office Expendable Trust**

To see if the Town will vote to expand the purpose of the Town Office Expendable trust to include expenses related to records retention such as shredding, filing and storage, and permanent office equipment and fixtures and to appoint the Select Board as agents to expend such fund. A 2/3 ballot vote is required.

**Motion to accept: Andrew Lasser**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis Jr.**

**Paul Davis Sr. asked why we needed a 2/3 vote. Someone stated because it is a trust**

**Francis Muzzey motioned to table because it was an unnecessary article**

**Table vote failed by hand count: Yes=12, No=27**

**Article was re-read**

**Passed by ballot vote yes=38, No=9**

**Article 23 Webster Memorial Library**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$48,214** for the Webster Memorial Library expenses, \$9,708 to come from Library income, and the remaining sum of \$38,506 to come from General Taxation.

**Motion to accept: Bernice Sullivan**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Pete Chierichetti**

**Re-read Article**

**PASSED by voice vote**

**Article 24 Cemeteries Expendable Trust**

Received by petition. To see if the Town will vote create the Wentworth Cemeteries Expendable Trust and to appoint the Wentworth Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend said fund. The fund will be used to receive cash and investment assets, plot sale fees and burial fees, and all future Plummer Trust Funds due for disbursement of the various Wentworth Cemeteries as they become available. The Trust Fund would be solely used to reimburse the Town for administrative, maintenance operations and improvements in the Foster, Eastside and Village Cemeteries as appropriate. A majority ballot vote is required.

**Motion: Francis Muzzey**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Davis Sr.**

**Lots of discussion about responsibilities and funds**

**Duane Brown stated he will be painting the fence for the E. Side Cemetery out of his own funds**

**Failed by ballot vote: 7=yes, 31=no**

**Article 25 Foster Cemetery**

Received by petition. To see if the Town will vote to accept the physical and financial assets of the Foster Cemetery Association. All future administrative costs including insurances and payroll would be provided by the Office of the Select Board and be reimbursed by the Wentworth Cemeteries Expendable Trust. Maintenance activities including the hiring and supervision of the sexton and plot sales would be the responsibility of the Wentworth Cemetery Trustees.

**Motion: Michael Leviss**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Kevin Patten**

**No Questions or comments**

**Re-read Article**

**Failed by voice vote**

**Article 26 Other Business**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

**No other business**

**Michael Leviss thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Ziembra,

