

2023 WARRANT ARTICLES

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 14, 2023. 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 18, 2023, 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.)

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.

Article 03 N. Dorchester Road Bridge Bond

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$758,000 (gross budget) for the design, permitting, construction, and replacement of the North Dorchester Road Bridge (the "Project"); to authorize \$758,000 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Ch. 33); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the date, maturities, interest rate, and other details of such bonds or notes; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept any federal, state, or private funds that may become available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded and furthermore to raise and appropriate \$92,000 for the first year's interest payment on the bond (final sum **\$850,000**). The Select Board recommends this action. (3/5th ballot vote required.)

Article 04 General Municipal Operations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **359,867** 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.

Article 05 Planning Board

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500** for the Planning Board in connection with its activities for such purposes and such uses as deemed necessary by said Planning Board.

- 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.
- Article 07 Police Department**
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$104,698** for the maintenance of the Police Department for the ensuing year for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant.
- Article 08 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.
- Article 09 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.
- Article 10 Fire Department**
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$54,550** for the maintenance of the Fire Department for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant, with \$2,000 coming from unassigned fund balance and \$52,550 from general taxation.
- Article 11 Highway and Streets**
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$395,430** for Highway and Streets for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant. Said appropriation will be offset with \$30,000 coming from unassigned fund balance, an anticipated offset of \$63,500 from Highway Block Grant and the remainder from general taxation.
- Article 12 Western Star**
To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to continue with the third 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 **\$28,500** for the said third year payment for that purpose. The lease agreement does not contain an escape clause. The Select Board recommends this action.

- Article 13 Transfer Station**
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$83,730** 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.
- Article 14 Parks and Recreation**
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$8,100** for Parks and Recreation for the general maintenance of parks including the Common, Library, Riverside Park, and Hamilton Memorial Field.
- Article 15 Conservation Fund**
To see if the town will vote to establish a Conservation Fund which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, as authorized by RSA 36-A:5, with the fund to be held by the municipal treasurer (RSA 41:29) and managed by the Conservation Commission. Further, to name the Conservation Commission as agents to expend from said fund. The Select Board recommends this action.
- Article 16 Town Forest Conservation Easement**
To see if the Town will vote to place a conservation easement on the following town-owned parcels comprising the Wentworth Town Forest, Plummer Town Forest parcel, Map 8, Lot 11, Sub 32, consisting of 130.57± acres; Van Deusen Town Forest parcel, Map 8, Lot 11, Sub 33, consisting of 35.5± acres; and Turner Road parcel, Map11, Lot 6, Sub 19, consisting of 15.31± acres, said easement to be held by the Pemi-Baker Land Trust, and to further raise and appropriate **\$7,250** which is the one-time fee for the easement.
- Article 17 Land Use Change Tax**
To see if the town will vote to authorize 100% of the Land Use Change Tax collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the Conservation fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5,III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25,II. If adopted, this article shall take effect April 1, 2023, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting. (Majority vote required.)
- Article 18 Conservation Appropriation**
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.
- Article 19 Forest Maintenance Appropriation**
To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500** for all purposes related to forest maintenance as set forth in RSA 31:111 and 112, with funds to be deposited into the Forest Maintenance Fund. This fund is held by the municipal treasurer and managed by the Conservation Commission.

Article 20

Sale of Town Forest Parcel

To see if the Town will vote to allow the Select Board and/or the Conservation Commission to sell the property designated as Town Forest located on N. Dorchester Road, Map 12, Lot 2, Sub 6 consisting of 1.1± acres with proceeds of the sale deposited to the Conservation Fund. Please note the Town previously voted to authorize the Select Board to sell property designated as Town Forest. The Planning Board recommends this action.

Article 21

ETF & CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$259,100** to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from 2023 general taxation. Please note \$50,000 to come from One Time Bridge Block payment and the remaining \$209,100 to come from 2023 general taxation. The Select Board unanimously recommends this action.

- Fire Truck CRF (established 1984) \$25,000
- Highway Equipment and Vehicles CRF (established 1973) \$25,000
- Police Cruiser CRF (established 1993) \$9,000
- Property Revaluation CRF (established 1995) \$5,000
- Town Bridges ETF (established 2006) \$100,000
- Town Hall Maintenance and repairs CRF (established 2000) \$5,000
- Road Paving CRF (established 2002) \$50,000
- Fire Department Site EFT (established 204) \$25,000
- Town Office Expansion ETF (established 2017) \$15,000
- Celebration ETF (established 2018) \$100

Article 22

Webster Memorial Library

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$49,804** for the Webster Memorial Library expenses, \$2,270 to come from Library income, \$12,000 to come from the unexpended fund balance and the remaining sum of \$35,534 to come from general taxation.

Article 23

Readoption of the Optional Veterans Tax Credits

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, previously adopted, for the Optional Veterans’ Tax Credit and the All Veterans Tax Credit, both currently at \$500 per year, to expand the eligibility requirements of the credits to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year. This is recommended by the Select Board, and the tax rate impact is \$0.

Article 24

Other Business

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