

Town of Bradford  
State of New Hampshire

Town Warrant of Town Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Polls will open at 8:00 am, and not close earlier than 7:00 pm, on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Bradford in the County of Merrimack in the said State qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Bradford Town Hall on West Main Street in said Bradford, N.H. on Tuesday the eleventh day of March next, at eight o'clock in the morning to act on the following articles:

**Article One:** To choose all necessary town officials for the ensuing year.

**Article Two:** Zoning Ordinance - To see if the Town will vote to adopt provisions which seek to update dates, definitions, map references and provide clarity for various requirements as recommended by the State of New Hampshire. These requirements are recommended by the State to ensure that Bradford stays in compliance with the Federal Flood Program. Maintaining compliance with the Flood Program is required for Bradford property owners to maintain their flood insurance. The following question will appear on the Official Ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Bradford Planning Board for the Town of Bradford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article IX, FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, as necessary to comply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

This Amendment was recommended for approval by the Planning Board by a vote of 5 – 0.”

**Article Three:** Zoning Ordinance - To see if the Town will vote to adopt provisions which seek to establish a Surface Water Overlay District. The Surface Water Overlay District (SWOD) is an overlay that establishes buffers from the major lakes, ponds, rivers and streams in Bradford. The provisions of the SWOD only apply to area within the SWOD buffer area and they establish a series of prohibited land uses and conditional land uses. Conditional uses within the SWOD buffer are those uses allowed in the underlying zoning district that are allowed if additional stormwater protections are put in place. It also establishes that the Planning Board is the permitting authority for Conditional Use Permits. Lastly, the SWOD also establishes additional standards and setbacks for all land uses within the SWOD buffer. The following question will appear on the Official Ballot:

“Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Bradford Planning Board for the Town of Bradford Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To establish a new Article, SURFACE WATER OVERLAY DISTRICT, that creates setbacks and standards for surface water protection to be administered by the Bradford Planning Board through a Conditional Use Permit process as described in NH RSA 674:21.

This Article will replace the current Article XI, ENFORCEMENTS, which will be redesignated as Article XII; all subsequent amendments articles will be renumbered accordingly.

This Amendment was recommended for approval by the Planning Board by a vote of 5 – 0.”

**Article Four:** To adjourn the meeting until Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:00 pm, at the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School, on Old Warner Road in Bradford. Raising the money and remaining articles in the Warrant will be taken up at the adjourned meeting.

**Article Five:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$2,949,519.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include amounts appropriated by other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends \$2,946,569.00. Budget Committee recommends \$2,949,519.00.

	<u>Select Board</u>	<u>Budget Committee</u>
1. Executive	243,610.00	243,610.00
2. Elections & Vital Statistics	4,600.00	4,600.00
3. Financial Administration	105,368.00	105,368.00
4. Revaluations	47,500.00	47,500.00
5. Legal	45,000.00	45,000.00
6. Employee Benefits	1.00	1.00
7. Planning & Zoning	13,138.00	13,138.00
8. General Gov	137,551.00	136,501.00
9. Cemetery	25,000.00	25,000.00
10. Insurances	113,560.00	113,560.00
11. Other General Gov	9,500.00	9,500.00
12. Police Department	647,134.00	647,134.00
13. Fire Department	159,000.00	159,000.00
14. Rescue Services - FAST	9,700.00	9,700.00
15. Rescue Services – Contract	80,000.00	80,000.00
16. Building Code Department	26,780.00	26,780.00
17. Civil Defense	1.00	1.00
18. Highway Department	732,630.00	737,630.00
19. Bridges	1.00	1.00
20. Street Lighting	2,400.00	2,400.00
21. Solid Waste Collection	100,910.00	100,910.00
22. Solid Waste Disposal	31,100.00	31,100.00
23. Inoculations	1.00	1.00
24. Welfare Administration	7,468.00	7,468.00

25. Welfare Payments	30,177.00	30,177.00
26. Parks and Recreation	23,759.00	22,759.00
27. Library	95,479.00	95,479.00
28. Patriotic Purposes	5,450.00	5,450.00
29. Community Center	38,550.00	38,550.00
30. Other Conservation	1,200.00	1,200.00
31. Economic Development	1.00	1.00
32. Long Term Notes	209,000.00	209,000.00
33. <u>Interest on TAN notes</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,946,569.00	\$ 2,949,519.00

**Article Six:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$8,500.00) to be placed in the 2024 Police Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Seven:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the 2021 Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Eight:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to fund the 2006 Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Nine:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund the 2020 Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Ten:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Two Thousand Dollars (\$72,000.00) to purchase turnout gear for the Fire Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2030. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Eleven:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to fund SCBA bottle and apparatus replacement. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2030. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Twelve:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of Three Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000.00) to fund road maintenance, preservation and paving. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2030. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Thirteen:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$254,000.00) to purchase a 2026 International six-wheel dump truck outfitted with equipment. This appropriation will come from the 2020 Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of Two Hundred Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$218,000.00) with the balance of Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000.00) to be raised by taxation. Further, this will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2030. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee does not recommend (6-1).

**Article Fourteen:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000.00) to fund the 2020 Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund. This article is null and void with the passage of Article Thirteen. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends (4-3).

**Article Fifteen:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Four Thousand (\$74,000.00) to fund the 2020 Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund. This article is null and void with the passage of Article Fourteen. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends. Budget Committee does not recommend.

**Article Sixteen:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to fund the 2019 Road and Bridge Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends (5-1).

**Article Seventeen:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease purchase agreement to acquire a Caterpillar four-wheel drive backhoe and further to authorize the Select Board to issue and negotiate such notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (This agreement will contain a fiscal funding non-appropriation clause). The total cost of the backhoe is One Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$173,300.00). The lease amount of One Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$173,300.00) will be payable over a term of 5 years with an annual appropriation of not more than Thirty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$38,500.00). Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$38,500.00) to fund the 2025 payment. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee does not recommend (5-1).

**Article Eighteen:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) to fund the 2015 Town Equipment Repair and Purchase Expendable Trust Fund. This article is null and void with the passage of Article Seventeen. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee does not recommend.

**Article Nineteen:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$41,500.00) to fund the 2015 Town Equipment Repair and Purchase Expendable Trust Fund. This article is null and void with the passage of Article Eighteen. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Twenty:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to fund the 2008 Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Twenty-One:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty-Five Dollars (\$11,745.00) to be placed in the 2021 Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance and represents the funds received from the Police Department's sale of two cruisers in 2024. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Twenty-Two:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to fund the 2020 Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance and represents the funds received from the Highway Department's sale of a dump body in 2024. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends (5-1).

**Article Twenty-Three:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund the demolition and removal of the Masonic Building at 89 West Main Street (Map 16 Lot 87) from Town property. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance, be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2030. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

**Article Twenty-Four:** "Resolution to Conserve and Maintain New Hampshire's Public Natural Resources"

"People, plants, and wildlife require clean air, pure water, and a healthy environment. The voters in the Town of Bradford call upon our governor, senators, representatives, and other elected officials to conserve and maintain New Hampshire's public natural resources for the benefit of this and future generations."

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Bradford's State Legislators and to the Governor of New Hampshire, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by Bradford's Select Board, within thirty days of this vote."

**Article Twenty-Five:** "Property Taxes for Private Education: A Call for Responsible Use"

"Whereas, taxpayers have a right to know how their money is spent and deserve clear, verifiable evidence that it is being spent wisely and delivering results; and

Whereas, taxpayer dollars are being diverted from public schools to private and religious education through Education Freedom Accounts (vouchers), and this shift does not reduce public school expenses, leaving local taxpayers to cover the difference through higher property taxes; and

Whereas, unlike public schools, private education funded by taxpayers through vouchers lacks key accountability measures, such as reporting how funds are used, tracking student performance, ensuring services for students with disabilities, and conducting background checks for staff;

Therefore, we, the voters of Bradford, New Hampshire, call on our state elected officials to uphold their duty to fiscal responsibility by rejecting any expansion of taxpayer funding for private education until we have full accountability, transparency, and a sustainable funding plan that ensures no further strain on public schools or local property taxpayers.

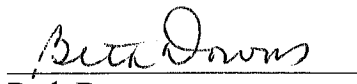
We further direct the Bradford Select Board to deliver this warrant article and results in writing to New Hampshire's Governor and members of the State Legislature within thirty days of this vote."

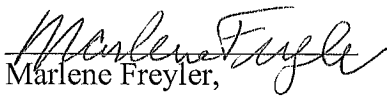
**Article Twenty-Six:** To see if the Town will vote to create the Efficiency Opportunity Committee for the purpose of identifying strategies to reduce Bradford's unsustainable property tax growth while continuing to maintain quality services. The Committee shall include one or more members of the Select Board, one or more members of the Budget Committee, one or more members of the Capital Improvement Plan Committee/Planning Board, and any Bradford resident with interest. Members of the Efficiency Opportunity Committee will collaborate, document and present strategic opportunities to the Select Board for consideration and discussion with Bradford residents. **By Petition.** (Majority vote required.) Select Board does not recommend (2-1). Budget Committee recommends (4-2-1).

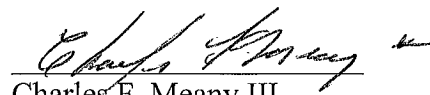
**Article Twenty-Seven:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$97,500.00 (Ninety-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) for the purpose of asbestos abatement and the demolition of the former Masonic Lodge located at 89 Main Street (Map 16, Lot 87). This is to be non-lapsing funds pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and will continue till the project is complete or December 31, 2030. **By Petition.** (Majority vote required.) Select Board does not recommend. Budget Committee does not recommend.

**Article Twenty-Eight:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Offices. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Bradford Select Board,

  
Beth Downs,  
Chairman

  
Marlene Freyler,  
Selectman

  
Charles F. Meany III,  
Selectman