



2026 Annual Town Meeting Voters' Guide



Lake Massasecum - Photo courtesy of Jim Dexter

To the Voters of Bradford:

Official Ballot Voting on Articles 1 thru 3 will be held at the Bradford Town Hall at 75 West Main Street in said Bradford, N.H. on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026 beginning** at eight o'clock in the morning (8:00 a.m.). The Polls will remain open until 7:00 p.m.

You are hereby notified to re-convene at the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School at 163 Old Warner Road in said Bradford, NH on **Wednesday, March 11, 2026** at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 p.m.) for the Annual Town Meeting portion (Transaction of All Other Business) to act on Articles 4 thru 32.

Moderator's Guidelines for Town Meeting Conduct

- Robert's Rules of Order will not apply.
- By majority vote, the voters can overrule any ruling the Moderator makes and any rule the Moderator establishes. A voter can raise such a request at any time by raising a Point of Order.
- The Moderator reserves the right to alter the order in which the proposed warrant articles are considered.
- Each proposed warrant article will be considered as follows:
 - The Moderator will announce the number and subject matter of the proposed article. The proposed articles will be projected on the screen at the front.
 - Debate will then proceed on the motion.
 - If the motion is not amended, it will proceed to the warrant as presented.
 - If an amendment is proposed and seconded, debate will proceed on the amendment. Only one amendment will be permitted on the floor at any given moment.
- Everyone who speaks must use a microphone so they can be heard. Each person who speaks must state their name and address to confirm they are Town residents.
- No one will speak unless recognized. Persons who speak without being recognized may be ruled out of order. No one will be recognized to speak unless they are at one of the microphones.
- Only one motion at a time will be permitted on the floor. The only exception to this rule is a Point of Order.
- Voters may rise to raise a Point of Order even if they do not have the floor. If more than one person rises to raise a Point of Order, the Moderator will recognize the first person to rise.
- Points of Order are: (1) a motion to amend or disregard one of the Moderator's rules; (2) a motion to overrule a ruling of the Moderator; and (3) a motion to call the question. The Moderator reserves the right to reject or defer a motion to call the question if in the Moderator's judgement the voters have had an inadequate opportunity to discuss the motion.
- If a motion to call the question is raised while people are waiting to speak, the Moderator will permit those people to speak before a vote is called on the motion.
- Motions to call the question require a 2/3 vote to pass.
- Negative motions will be disallowed. A negative motion is a motion such as "I move that we not adopt the budget."

- Non-residents will be permitted to speak only with the permission of the voters, except the Moderator reserves the right to permit the Town attorney or Town employees to speak.
- All comments and questions will be addressed to the Moderator.
- All speakers must speak only to the article or motion under consideration.
- All speakers in debate will be limited to three (3) minutes per appearance at the microphone.
- Each speaker may address an article or motion only once until everyone who wishes to do so has spoken once.
- Motions to Reconsider may be raised only by voters on the prevailing side of the vote.
- Motions to restrict reconsideration may only be raised after the article that is the subject of the motion has been voted. Motions to restrict reconsideration in advance of consideration of the article(s) shall be disallowed. Motions to restrict reconsideration are not subject to reconsideration, and any such motion shall be disallowed.
- The Moderator may vote, but will only do so to break a tie.

Town Meeting Overview

Annual Meeting Terminology:

Warrant: The meeting's subject matter agenda. It is set by the Select Board and must be publicly posted before the meeting. It identifies the subjects that can be addressed. Those subjects and only those subjects are open for discussion.

Articles: Individual subject matters listed on the warrant. The articles are ordinarily chosen by the Select Board, but an article supported by the written petition of 25 registered voters in the requisite time must also appear in the warrant. The articles are taken up one at a time in the order in which they appear on the warrant, unless it is voted to change that order.

Line-Item Budget Amendments: The voters do not have the power to make binding amendments to specific line items in the Town's budget - RSA 32:3, V and RSA 32:10, I (e). While the voters have the right to reduce the overall operating budget, the Select Board retains discretionary authority to move spending within their budgets - RSA 32:10. An exception to that rule is an appropriation under a "special warrant article" which can only be used for that express purpose - RSA 32:10, I (d).

10% Rule: In New Hampshire, the "10% rule" (RSA 32:18) dictates that in towns like Bradford with an official budget committee, total appropriations (including warrant articles) cannot exceed the committee's recommended budget by more than 10%. This cap protects taxpayers, calculated on the total budget minus fixed charges like debt service and mandatory assessments imposed on towns by the county, state or federal governments.

Non-Lapsing Appropriation: An appropriation that creates an exception to the normal rule that an approved annual meeting appropriation expires after one fiscal year. By special warrant article, the voters can grant a governing body the authority to carry over an approved appropriation for up to 5 years - RSA 32:7.

Capital Reserve Fund: A fund created for receipt and retention of non-lapsing appropriations for certain identified purposes including capital construction, maintenance, improvements or acquisition, and special education expenses. Unless an “agent” to expend from a CRF is appointed under the article, payments out from the fund require town vote - RSA 35.

Expendable Trust Fund: In New Hampshire, both Expendable Trust Funds (ETFs) (RSA 31:19-a) and Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) (RSA 35) are vehicles managed by Trustees of the Trust to save for future municipal expenses. The primary difference is that ETFs are generally for operation/maintenance, while CRFs are for specific capital projects; both require town meeting approval to create, but share similar investment and expenditure rules.

Motion to Move the Question: A motion to end the discussion on a pending motion/article. This motion must be seconded, is non-debatable. It is improper for a speaker to express an opinion and then to move to close the discussion. If a motion to move the question is approved, discussion on the motion/article ceases. However, the practice has been that the voters in line at the microphone will be heard but will not be permitted to make any further motion.

Vote: When discussion is ended, the vote on a pending motion will usually require a simple majority vote to pass, although there are exceptions. For example, a motion for a bond exceeding \$100,000 requires a 3/5 majority and a ballot vote – (RSA 33:8). Initially, the Moderator will usually ask for a “show of hands” vote. If the Moderator deems the “show of hands” vote too close to call, a hand count will be conducted by designated counters. After the vote, the Moderator will move on to the next article.

Written Ballot: The Moderator must conduct a vote by written ballot if five identifiable voters, recognized at the meeting, provide the Moderator with a written request to do so before the vote - RSA 40:4-a, I, (a). If the result of a non-ballot vote is questioned immediately and before other business is begun, upon request of seven or more voters, the Moderator must retake the vote by written ballot - RSA 40:4-b. If the vote margin is less than 10%, upon the request of 5 voters, the Moderator must conduct a recount of a written ballot vote - RSA 40:4-a, I, (b).

Motion to Pass Over: This motion has in practice been a proposal to take no action on a specific article and to simply proceed to the next article. The motion requires a second, is non-debatable, and requires a 2/3 majority.

Motion to Appeal: This is a motion by which a voter can appeal a rule or decision of the Moderator. It is a motion that can be made by anyone at any time by announcing a “point of order.” The motion requires a second, is debatable, and needs a simple majority.

Point of Order: A voter may also rise and assert a “point of order” when the voter believes that a fundamental procedural error has occurred. Asserting a point of order is not to be misused as license to make whatever statement the speaker wishes to interject.

Motion to Adjourn: This motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and requires a simple majority. Although “adjourned” might suggest a future continuation, in practice it means to end

the meeting. If at 11:00 pm it appears that all matters can be disposed of by midnight, the meeting will continue. If not, a motion to recess to an announced time and date will be entertained.

New Hampshire law gives the voters (the Legislative Body) the choice of two formats for conducting the annual meeting of their School Board and Town (the Governing Body): the town meeting and SB2. In both meetings, rudimentary parliamentary procedure is usually followed but is not mandatory. If you want to speak, explain your intent at the microphone and the Moderator will try to help. The Moderator conducts the meetings, but it is the Voters' meeting. The Voters can overrule any decision the Moderator makes or any rule the Moderator establishes.

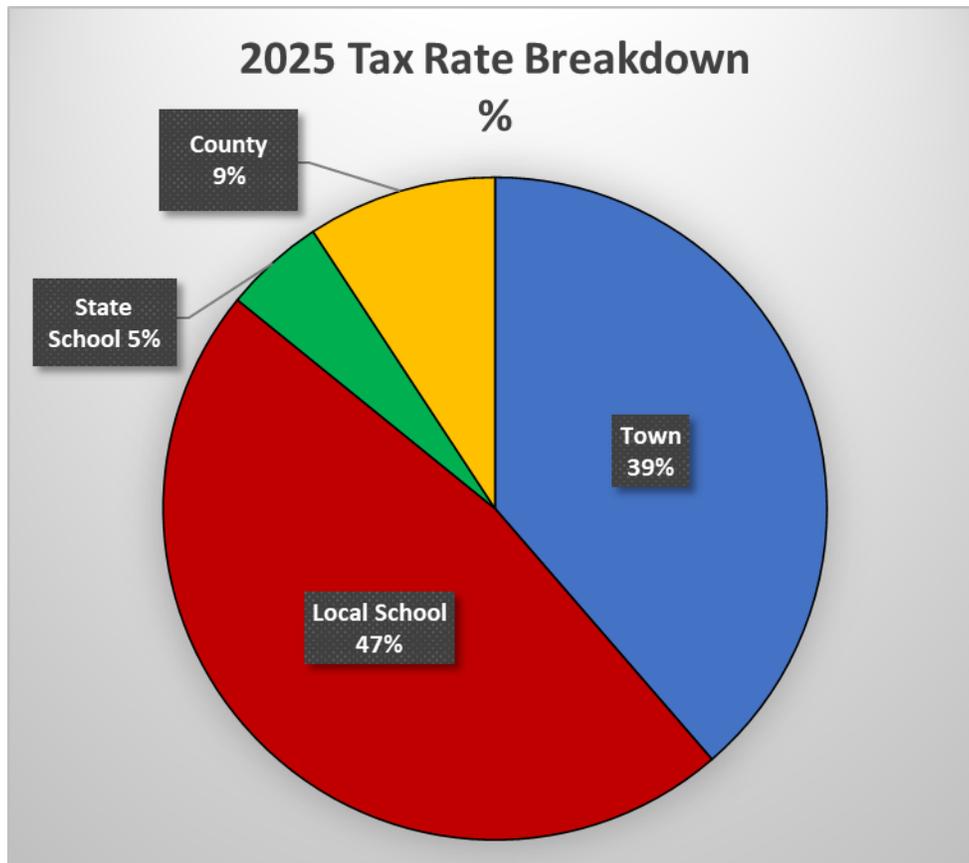
The Moderator has the right to have a disorderly person removed by a police officer (RSA 40:8) The Moderator takes up one article at a time in the order in which it appears on the warrant. The Voters can vote to change the order. The Moderator announces the article number and reads the article aloud.

NOTE:

The “ **YES** **NO**” boxes contained herein are only meant for your personal use and not intended to be an official method of ballot voting.

ANNUAL TAX RATE

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Town	\$9.20	\$8.90	\$8.95	\$9.35	\$11.07	\$5.89	\$6.53
Local School	\$13.53	\$10.80	\$10.79	\$11.63	\$12.57	\$7.64	\$7.97
State School	\$2.35	\$1.67	\$1.83	\$1.25	\$1.77	\$0.97	\$0.83
County	\$2.83	\$2.49	\$2.34	\$2.46	\$2.39	\$1.23	\$1.56
Total per \$1,000 valuation	\$27.91	\$23.86	\$23.91	\$24.69	\$27.80	\$15.73	\$16.89



Warrant Articles

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

OFFICIAL BALLOT - SAMPLE TOWN ELECTION BRADFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE MARCH 10, 2026	
<i>Instructions to Voters:</i> 1. To Vote, fill in the oval(s) <input type="radio"/> opposite your choice(s) like this <input checked="" type="radio"/> 2. To Write-In a candidate not on the ballot, write the name on the line provided for the office and fill in the oval opposite the write-in <input checked="" type="radio"/>	
BUDGET COMMITTEE – 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 2) Karen Hambleton <input type="radio"/> Tavior Matano <input type="radio"/> Rachel Sweetbrown <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>	SELECTMEN – 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Marlene Frevler <input type="radio"/> Dawn E. Gezelman <input type="radio"/> Devin Pendleton <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>
CEMETERY COMMISSION – 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Dan Cillev <input type="radio"/> Sanford Petty <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>	SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST – 6-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Linda C. Cansler <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>
MODERATOR – 2-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Bruce Storm <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>	TRUSTEES OF THE BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY – 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 2) Laura Beaton <input type="radio"/> Mary Keegan-Dayton <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>
PLANNING BOARD - 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 3) Bruce Gezelman <input type="radio"/> Kelly McCaskill Eneguess <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>	TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Rachel Sweetbrown <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – 2-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Patty Heffner <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>	ZONING BOARD - 3-YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 2) Jim Varney <input type="radio"/> Nathaniel Bruss <input type="radio"/> Bob Kinder <input type="radio"/> Kaily Roukey <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/>

Article Two: Zoning Amendment - To see what action the Town will take with respect to the following proposed amendment to the Bradford Zoning Ordinance by ballot vote upon the following question:

Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment to the existing Bradford Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the planning board, as follows:

Amend certain sections of the Zoning Ordinance as listed below to require frontage on a Class V or better road as a prerequisite for new construction.

1. Amend Article II, Definitions:

a. Revise the existing definition of Frontage as follows:

Frontage: ~~The length of a lot bordering on an accepted public road or on a proposed street on a subdivision plat approved by the Planning Board.~~ The width of a lot measured along its common boundary with a public right of way.

b. Add a new definition, as follows:

Public way: A public right of way which the Town or State has the duty to maintain.

Explanation: Part “a.” is a housekeeping measure to clarify how lot frontage is defined. Part “b.” further defines a public way as a Town or State maintained road.

Article Three: Zoning Amendment - To see what action the Town will take with respect to the following proposed amendment to the Bradford Zoning Ordinance by ballot vote upon the following question:

Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment to the existing Bradford Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the planning board, as follows:

Amend certain sections of the Zoning Ordinance as listed below as follows:

Add a new Section Q to Article III as follows: Any alterations or improvements made to a Town road, must first receive design approval by the Road Agent and Select Board.

Explanation: This addition to the Zoning Ordinance includes the Select Board in the approval process for any alterations or improvements to any town road.



OFFICIAL ZONING BALLOT - **SAMPLE**
TOWN ELECTION
TOWN OF BRADFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 10, 2026

Instructions to Voters:

1. To Vote, fill in the oval(s) opposite your choice(s) like this

ZONING AMENDMENTS

Article Two: Zoning Amendment - To see what action the Town will take with respect to the following proposed amendment to the Bradford Zoning Ordinance by ballot vote upon the following question:

Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment to the existing Bradford Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the planning board, as follows:

Amend certain sections of the Zoning Ordinance as listed below to require frontage on a Class V or better road as a prerequisite for new construction.

1. Amend Article II, Definitions:

a. Revise the existing definition of Frontage as follows:

Frontage: ~~The length of a lot bordering on an accepted public road or on a proposed street on a subdivision plat approved by the Planning Board. The width of a lot measured along its common boundary with a public right-of-way.~~

b. Add a new definition, as follows:

Public way: A public right of way which the Town or State has the duty to maintain.

YES

NO

Article Three: Zoning Amendment - To see what action the Town will take with respect to the following proposed amendment to the Bradford Zoning Ordinance by ballot vote upon the following question:

Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment to the existing Bradford Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the planning board, as follows:

2. Add a new Section Q to Article III as follows: Any alterations or improvements made to a Town road, must first receive design approval by the Road Agent and Select Board.

YES

NO

Article Four: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million Forty-One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$3,041,321.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include amounts appropriated by other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends \$3,057,321.00. Budget Committee recommends \$3,041,321.00.

	<u>Select Board</u>	<u>Budget Committee</u>
1. Executive	223,000.00	223,000.00
2. Elections & Vital Statistics	9,100.00	9,100.00
3. Financial Administration	107,451.00	107,451.00
4. Revaluations	47,700.00	47,700.00
5. Legal	31,000.00	20,000.00
6. Employee Benefits	1.00	1.00
7. Planning & Zoning	14,500.00	14,500.00
8. General Gov	153,800.00	148,800.00
9. Cemetery	25,000.00	25,000.00
10. Insurances	116,842.00	116,842.00
11. Other General Gov	9,500.00	9,500.00
12. Police Department	665,820.00	665,820.00
13. Fire Department	164,500.00	164,500.00
14. Rescue Services - FAST	8,700.00	8,700.00
15. Rescue Services – Contract	135,000.00	135,000.00
16. Building Code Department	36,830.00	36,830.00
17. Emergency Management	1.00	1.00
18. Highway Department	748,506.00	748,506.00
19. Bridges	1.00	1.00
20. Street Lighting	2,500.00	2,500.00
21. Solid Waste Collection	104,944.00	104,944.00
22. Solid Waste Disposal	33,320.00	33,320.00
23. Inoculations	1.00	1.00
24. Welfare Administration	7,685.00	7,685.00
25. Welfare Payments	30,427.00	30,427.00
26. Parks and Recreation	23,670.00	23,670.00
27. Library	95,549.00	95,549.00
28. Patriotic Purposes	22,350.00	22,350.00
29. Community Center	28,300.00	28,300.00
30. Other Conservation	1,200.00	1,200.00
31. Economic Development	1.00	1.00
32. Long Term Notes	209,122.00	209,122.00
33. <u>Interest on TAN notes</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,057,321.00	\$ 3,041,321.00

Explanation: This is to approve the 2026 annual operating budget for the Town. The Budget Committee’s recommended budget of \$3,041,321.00 is 3.1% higher than the 2025 budget. The

Select Board's recommended budget of \$3,057,321.00 is 3.6% higher. The \$16,000 difference between the two budgets is due to two line items: Legal and General Government Buildings.

Legal Expenses: The Select Board feels \$31,000.00 is required to cover legal counsel services for the Town, which is a 31% reduction from 2025. The Budget Committee is recommending a 55% cut in legal counsel services leaving just \$20,000.00 in the line item. Over the last 10 years, the Town's average legal expenses have been over \$35,000.00 per year.

General Government Buildings: The Select Board's proposed \$153,800.00 is to cover the maintenance and improvements in Town buildings that are suffering from neglect. The Budget Committee proposed budget of \$148,800.00 just makes that goal a little bit more difficult to achieve.

The \$16,000.00 difference in the two budgets represents a \$0.03 impact on the tax rate.

YES NO

Article Five: Shall the Town vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to modify the provisions of RSA 72:35, previously adopted, for an optional tax credit of \$1,900 for a Service-Connected Total and Permanent Disability? If approved, this article shall take effect for the final property tax bill of the 2026 property tax year. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: Last year the NH Legislature passed a bill that inadvertently prevented veterans from combining various tax credits. This article essentially makes veterans whole again so they can receive the same level of benefit as in the past. There is no tax impact.

YES NO

Article Six: Shall the Town vote to modify the Veteran's Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II from its current tax credit of \$500.00 per year to \$750.00 per year? (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: This article allows for a modest increase in the Veteran's Tax Credit for those that served our country. There is no tax impact.

YES NO

Article Seven: 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 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: This article is designed to put money aside each year towards the purchase of new and replacement equipment for the Police Department. This represents a tax rate impact of less than \$0.02.

YES NO

Article Eight: 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 Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 5-1.

Explanation: This article is designed to put money aside each year towards the purchase of replacement Police Department vehicles to eliminate needing a large lump-sum on the year a vehicle is purchased that would have a more significant impact on the property tax rate. This represents a tax rate impact of less than \$0.04.

YES NO

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) to be placed in the 2006 Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: This article is designed to put money aside each year towards the purchase of replacement fire trucks to eliminate needing a large lump-sum or borrowing on the year a vehicle is purchased that would have a much more significant impact on the property tax rate. Currently a truck is scheduled to be replace in 2031 at an estimated cost of over \$600,000.00. This represents a tax rate impact of less than \$0.17.

YES NO

Article Ten: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the 2020 Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: This article is designed to put money aside each year towards the purchase of new and replacement equipment for the Fire Department. This represents a tax rate impact of \$0.02.

YES NO

Article Eleven: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00) 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, 2031. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: *This article is to fund road maintenance and improvements in 2026. This \$350,000.00 amount does not allow the Town to keep up with the requirements of the 15-year road maintenance plan which would require approximately \$450,000 year to do so. This represents a tax rate impact of \$0.76.*

YES NO

Article Twelve: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) to be placed in the 2020 Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: *This article is designed to put money aside each year towards the purchase of new and replacement equipment for the Highway Department. This amount was originally targeted for a major repair on an older truck, but instead will be put toward the future purchase of a new truck. This presents a tax rate impact of \$0.10.*

YES NO

Article Thirteen: 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 2019 Road and Bridge Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: *This article is designed to put money aside each year towards major repair, maintenance and replacement of roads and bridges in town. This presents a tax rate impact of \$0.04.*

YES NO

Article Fourteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$38,500.00) to fund the 2026 lease-purchase payment on the Caterpillar backhoe acquired by the Highway Department last year. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: *This article is for the next lease payment on the Caterpillar backhoe purchased last year. If the payment isn't funded, the lease will be terminated and the backhoe will be returned. This presents a tax rate impact of \$0.08.*

YES NO

Article Fifteen: 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 2015 Town Equipment Repair and Purchase Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: *This article is designed to put money aside each year towards the repair and/or replacement of equipment for the Town. This presents a tax rate impact of \$0.04.*

YES NO

Article Sixteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to be placed in the 2008 Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: *This article is designed to put money aside each year towards the full revaluation of property in 2029 as required by law. The anticipated cost to do so is \$35,000.00 and there is approximately \$8,700.00 currently in this fund. This presents a tax rate impact of less than \$0.01.*

YES NO

Article Seventeen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to be placed in the 2022 Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 5-1.

Explanation: *This article is designed to put money aside each year towards emergency repairs or replacement of roads, culverts and bridges in town. This presents a tax rate impact of less than \$0.01.*

YES NO

Article Eighteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to be placed in the 2022 Long Term Planning Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee does not recommend 1-5.

Explanation: *This article is designed to put money aside for engaging outside consultants, engineers or planners to assist the Town in future community needs and direction. This presents a tax rate impact of less than \$0.01.*

YES NO

Article Nineteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to be placed in the 2022 Matching Funds for Grants Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 4-2.

Explanation: *This puts money aside to ensure the Town has funds readily available to take advantage of grants and other funding mechanism that require a contribution or matching funds to become eligible for such funds. This presents a tax rate impact of less than \$0.01.*

YES NO

Article Twenty: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to replace the furnace and associated equipment at the Fire Station building. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 5-1.

Explanation: *The current furnace at the Fire Station is over 40 years old and is due for a replacement with a more reliable and efficient unit. This presents a tax rate impact of \$0.06.*

YES NO

Article Twenty-One: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for fire suppression equipment and associated items for replacement. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: *This is part of a multi-year effort to update Fire Department fire suppression equipment. This presents a tax rate impact of less than \$0.01.*

YES NO

Article Twenty-Two: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for repairs to the Fire Station building. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 5-1.

Explanation: *The Fire Station requires exterior repairs and maintenance. This presents a tax rate impact of \$0.04.*

YES NO

Article Twenty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) for portable radios and repeaters for the Fire Department. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 4-2.

Explanation: *This is for upgrade and replacement of old Fire Department communications equipment. This presents a tax rate impact of \$0.06.*

YES NO

Article Twenty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) to purchase and outfit with equipment a new Police Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV). This appropriation will come from the 2021 Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of Fifty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$52,000.00), and from the Police Detail account in the amount of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2031. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 5-1.

Explanation: *This article is for the regular replacement of a Police Department vehicle. There is no tax impact.*

YES NO

Article Twenty-Five: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to offer for sale the following parcels of Town-owned land on such terms and conditions as the Select Board determine are in the best interest of the Town. Such authority to transfer or sell shall continue to be in effect indefinitely, until rescinded. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends 3-0.

- A Map 5 Lot 81 95 West Road (2.0 acres and buildings)
- B Map 5 Lot 99 West Meadow Road (5.0 acres – land only)
- C Map 6 Lot 17 Center Road (151.8 acres – land only)
- D Map 6 Lot 31 West Road (4.5 acres – land only)
- E Map 6 Lot 48 West Road (6.4 acres – land only)
- F Map 6 Lot 94 Cheney Hill Road (7.0 acres – land only)
- G Map 9 Lot 5-1 225 E. Washington Road (3.41 acres – land only)

Explanation: *These are properties that were acquired by the Town through the tax lien process. The Select Board would like to sell these properties through an auction or sealed bid process to recoup the unpaid taxes owed the Town.*

YES NO

Article Twenty-Six: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell town-owned property, identified as “Map 06, Lot 48, located at Center Road, consisting of approximately 6.4 acres (landlocked)”, to Nathaniel and Pamela Bruss, of 367 County Rd, Bradford NH, at fair market value, and to authorize the Select Board to take any and all actions necessary to carry out this sale. Subject to terms, easements and deed restrictions as the Selectboard deems to be in the best interest of the town. To further authorize the Selectboard to

make a finding that such conveyance is in the public interest, taking into consideration the return of the property to productive use, return to tax rolls, and continued agriculture use in harmony with the Master Plan. **By Petition.** (Majority vote required). Select Board does not recommend 3-0.

Explanation: *Articles 26 & 27 would prevent the Select Board from selling these two lots through an open and competitive process and instead restrict the sale to Nathaniel and Pamela Bruss giving them exclusive rights to the property. Further, this restricts the selling price to “fair market value” without defining how that value is determined. Since these lots were taken through the tax lien process, the Town is obligated to return to the previous owner(s) any excess funds over and above the back taxes, interest and fees due the Town (RSA 80). If the Town has not shown an adequate effort to obtain the highest value through an open and competitive process, that may be the basis for a lawsuit.*

YES NO

Article Twenty-Seven: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell town-owned property, identified as “Map 06, Lot 17, located at Center Road, consisting of approximately 151.8 acres”, to Nathaniel and Pamela Bruss, of 367 County Rd, Bradford NH, at fair market value, and to authorize the Select Board to take any and all actions necessary to carry out this sale. Subject to terms, easements and deed restrictions as the Selectboard deems to be in the best interest of the town. To further authorize the Selectboard to make a finding that such conveyance is in the public interest, taking into consideration the return of the property to productive use, return to tax rolls, and continued agriculture use in harmony with the Master Plan. **By Petition.** (Majority vote required). Select Board does not recommend 3-0.

YES NO

Article Twenty-Eight: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$39,415.00) for paving and improvements to the Town Hall parking area. Said funds to come from Fund Balance, representing the revenue from the sale of land in 2024. No amount to be raised from taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2031, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 6-0.

Explanation: *This is one of the unfinished projects at Town Hall leftover from the renovation. This will allow us to clearly identify the handicap parking area, make the parking area easier to maintain and for snow removal. It will also eliminate the amount of sand being tracked into the building and deteriorating the wood floors. There is no tax impact since the funds were previously raised.*

YES NO

Article Twenty-Nine: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Forty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$48,150.00) for grounds restoration and paving the adjacent parking area at the site of the now-demolished Masonic Lodge within the Town-owned Fire Department lot. Said funds to come from Fund Balance, representing the leftover amounts appropriated under Article 27 at the 2025 town Meeting, which lapsed to Fund Balance following the completion of the Masonic Lodge demolition project. No amount to be raised by taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2031, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 5-1.

Explanation: *There was money remaining in last year's warrant article for the demolition of the Masonic Lodge. However, because of the specific wording of that article, that money could not be used for restoring the landscaping, expanding and paving the Fire Station parking area and address drainage concerns. There is no tax impact since the funds were previously raised.*

YES NO

Article Thirty: To see if the Town will vote to change the term of supervisors of the checklist from 6 years to 3 years, electing one supervisor each year over a 3-year cycle. If the Town votes to adopt a 3-year term for supervisors of the checklist, the change in term length will apply beginning with the supervisor elected at the annual town election in 2028. The supervisors elected in 2022, 2024 and 2026 shall still serve 6-year terms ending in 2028, 2030 and 2032, respectively. One supervisor shall be elected in 2028 to a 3-year term ending in 2031. One supervisor shall be elected in 2030 to a 3-year term ending in 2033. Beginning in 2031 and continuing each year thereafter, one supervisor of the checklist shall be elected to a 3-year term at the annual town election each year. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends 3-0.

Explanation: *This transistions the supervisor of the checklist positions from the current 6-year term to 3-year making it more palatable to volunteer for a shorter time commitment.*

YES NO

Article Thirty-One: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) for the purpose of conducting a structural and HVAC assessment of the Highway Department garage and the Fire Station with said funds to come from Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the assessment is completed or by December 31, 2031, whichever is sooner. (Majority vote required). Select Board recommends 3-0. Budget Committee recommends 5-1.

Explanation: *This article would enable the Town to have the buildings structurally assessed to determine current condition and what options would be available for expansion, improvements, and energy efficiency efforts. There is no tax impact.*

YES NO

Article Thirty-Two: 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.

YES NO