

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
2023 BUDGET AND WARRANT ARTICLES
MARCH 21, 2023

PRESENT: Rich James, Paul Hazelton, Pat Moriarty, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara and Fred Kohout, Maynard Young, Bob Brooks, Maryann and Ed Weber, Travis Austin, Henry Lynch, Bob and Janet Wisniewski, John Dunklee, Suzanne Smith, Maryann Bergenholtz

6:30 P.M. **OPENED PUBLIC HEARING:** Chair James opened the public hearing on the 2023 Budget and Warrant Articles.

Chair James informed the attendees that this hearing was for the 2023 Budget and Warrant Articles. Warrant Article #1 would be voted on through the ballot process on May 9, 2023. The public hearing on the proposed Zoning Amendments (Warrant Articles #2 and #3) would be held on March 30, 2023 in the upstairs meeting room of the Town Office Building. The public hearing on the bond article for the proposed Community Center/Library Building (Warrant Article #4) would be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 in the Hebron Community Hall (basement of the Union Congregational Church).

WARRANT ARTICLE #5: Vice-Chair Hazelton read warrant article 5 to see if the town will vote to discontinue completely Favor Road to its termination point at the camp known as "William's Camp" pursuant to RSA 231:43. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen. Vice-Chair Hazelton informed the audience that Camp Pasquaney owns both sides of the road and the camp would continue to give the town access to Wade Road.

WARRANT ARTICLE #6: Chair James read warrant article 6 to see if the town will vote to discontinue completely Pasquaney Lane pursuant to RSA 231:43. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen. Chair James relayed to the audience that Camp Pasquaney owns both sides of Pasquaney Lane as well and this would give them the ability to maintain the road to the camp's standards.

WARRANT ARTICLE #7: Selectman Moriarty read warrant article 7 to see if the Town will vote to discontinue completely a portion of Cooper Road, beginning seventy-five feet beyond the intersection of Cooper Road and Town Shed Drive to its termination point at the old Raymond Davis homestead, pursuant to RSA 231:43. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen. Selectman Moriarty noted that the town has not maintained this section of road for some time and it may already have the road classification of Class VI. Barbara Kohout inquired about the beaver dams and would they need to be removed. Chair James replied that the beaver dams can remain on private property. Suzanne Smith noted that the landowner paid for the beaver deceiver to deter the beavers from plugging the culvert. The culvert is in the wrong location as the culvert is too high for water to drain through it regularly.

WARRANT ARTICLE #8: Vice-Chair Hazelton read warrant article 8 to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred One Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$101,970) to reclaim, repair, and repave Hobart Hill Road. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until June 30, 2026 or until the project is completed, whichever occurs first. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen. Vice-Chair Hazelton informed the audience that Ben Hall, Highway Supervisor, felt that Hobart Hill Road would be moved up on the maintenance schedule due to the amount of homes on the road and the current conditions of the road. Vice-Chair Hazelton informed the audience that the Board hired Lakes Region Planning Commission to prepare a Road Surface Maintenance Study on all the town roads. The study recommends the roads to have specific maintenance on them each year based on usage and conditions. This is a good tool to assist the Highway Supervisor with future road planning and budgeting.

WARRANT ARTICLE #9: Chair James read warrant article 9 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$138,400) to be added to the capital reserve funds and reserve funds previously established as follows:

Police	\$9,000
Highway	\$8,400
Fire	\$63,000
Ambulance	\$22,000
Communications	\$5,000
Assessment Services	\$14,000
Cemetery Tombstones and Fence	\$2,000
Road Emergency Repairs	\$5,000
Culvert Repair & Maintenance	\$5,000
Preservation of Town Records	\$5,000

(Majority vote required).

Recommended by the Selectmen

Chair James informed the audience that this is the annual appropriations added to various capital reserve fund accounts that enables the town to pay for future projects. Chair James noted that the Capital Improvements Projects Committee has been reactivated. The committee meets with the department heads to review large expenditures, project costs, and assists in determining annual appropriations, while maintaining level budgeting, to be able to pay for the project in the year that the project is anticipated to happen. Selectman Moriarty informed the audience that the Fire Department is purchasing a new ambulance without having to raise additional funds for the purchase. This is the result of good planning.

WARRANT ARTICLE #10: Selectman Moriarty read warrant article 10 shall the town re-adopt the OPTIONAL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with the terms and eligibility requirements of RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$100.00 and re-adopt the ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with the terms and eligibility requirements of RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be the same amount (\$100.00) as the optional veterans' tax credit? (Majority vote required). Selectman Moriarty informed the audience that the article was a housekeeping article due to new legislation. Selectman Moriarty explained the difference between an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit (which requires specific medals for the times served) and the All Veterans' Tax Credit (which any individual that has served during a specific period would be eligible).

WARRANT ARTICLE #11: Vice-Chair Hazelton read warrant article 11 to see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire Safety Equipment Reserve Fund per RSA 35:1-c, for the purpose of replacing fire safety equipment and defibrillators and to raise and appropriate Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$14,200) to be placed in the fund; further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen. Vice-Chair Hazelton informed the audience that this was to create a new Fire Safety Equipment Reserve Fund to be able to replace safety equipment within a reasonable amount of time. Chair James stated that this appropriation would show up in the future under the warrant article for appropriating funds for the reserve accounts.

WARRANT ARTICLE #12: Chair James read warrant article 12 to see if the Town will vote to establish a Riverbank Maintenance Reserve Fund per RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of clearing debris from the rivers and preventative tree removal maintenance along the rivers and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen. Chair James explained to the audience that this fund would enable the town to remove debris from the river and downed trees to address flooding of roads and homes. Since there is limited access to the river, the funds would be available once permission was granted from the property owners. Marion Weber asked if this would be added to

the annual appropriations list for various capital reserve and reserve funds. Chair James replied, not necessarily, as each fund is reviewed on an annual basis and if there are enough funds in reserves then the town could put it off for a couple of years.

WARRANT ARTICLE #13: Selectman Moriarty read warrant article 13 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Five Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$1,591,791) as an operating budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This article EXCLUDES appropriations made under all previous articles. (Majority vote required). Recommended by the Selectmen. Selectman Moriarty informed the audience that the breakdown for the budget was on the next page listed by department. Selectman Moriarty noted that the Board meets with each department before finalizing the total budget. Each of the departments inform the Board of necessities and annual contracts that may increase annually but are required in order for the departments to operate. Selectman Moriarty commented that the 2023 Budget proposed an increase of 2% over 2022's Budget. Bob Brooks asked about the increase to the Highway Department Budget. Chair James replied that the increase was to utilize more salt vs. sand on the roads in 2023 and an increase to fuel for the vehicles. Henry Lynch expressed concerns with the extremely poor condition of George Road all through the past year. There is very little crown to the road, if any, the grading done is poor, and the ditches need to be cleaned in order for them to work. Chair James informed Mr. Lynch that he would bring this to Mr. Hall's attention. Mr. Lynch noted that the newly paved sections of George Road needs crack sealer in the cracks before both sections need to be repaved. Selectman Moriarty informed Mr. Lynch that George Road is on the schedule for crack sealer in 2023. John Dunklee informed the Board that this was the worst plowing ever of Hemlock Lane as the cul-de-sac was never plowed. Maynard Young inquired about the increase in the *Income from Departments* account. Ms. Sanborn replied that the income was part of the Fiber Optics Project and the grant received for this project. Chair James elaborated on the project and informed the audience that Fiber Optics will be installed in all of the town buildings and the community will have an opportunity to have fiber optics service in their residences as well.

7:00 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Chief Austin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Maynard Young. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator