



TOWN of NEW DURHAM
2024 SB2 Deliberative Session Town Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
7 Old Bay Road, New Durham School, New Durham, NH

PRESENT

Linda Callaway, Moderator
Alicia Housel, Town Clerk
Cecile Chase, Interim Town Administrator
Christine Johnston, Esq., Town Counsel
David Swenson, Chair of Board of Selectmen
Marc DeCoff, Member of Board of Selectmen
Dorothy Veisel, Member of Board of Selectmen – excused absence
Terry Jarvis, Chair Budget Committee
Ken Fanjoy, Vice Chair Budget Committee
Ken Ross-Raymond, Member Budget Committee
David Bickford, Member Budget Committee
Ellen Phillips, Member Budget Committee
Kelly Bisson, Budget Committee Copple Crown Village District Representative
Susan DeRoy, Member Budget Committee – excused absence
Jeff Allard, Chair of Planning Board
Bob Craycraft, Member Planning Board
Scott Drummey, Member Planning Board
Anne Ross-Raymond, Member Planning Board
Pat Grant, Chair Supervisors of the Checklist
Chris Baca, Member Supervisors of the Checklist
Angela Pruitt, Member Supervisors of the Checklist

ALSO PRESENT

38 Registered Voters.

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Callaway opened the 2024 Deliberative Session on February 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM.
Select Board Chair Swenson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Moderator Callaway invited the Budget Committee and Select Board each to open and recess their meetings.

MOTION: To open the Budget Committee meeting of February 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Motion by Chair Jarvis. Second by Mr. Fanjoy. Motion passed 6-0-0.

MOTION: To recess the Budget Committee meeting until the end of the Deliberative Session. Motion by Chair Jarvis. Second by Mr. Fanjoy. Motion passed 6-0-0.

MOTION: To open the Board of Selectmen meeting of February 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Motion passed 2-0-0.

MOTION: To recess the Board of Selectmen meeting until the end of the Deliberative Session. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Members of the Boards, Committee and Town were introduced.

Chair Swenson presented the Community Recognitions & 2023 Milestones.

Moderator Callaway: The Town Deliberative Session is the opportunity for all interested registered voters in town to participate in reviewing, discussing, and/or amending (by in-person vote this evening) the slate of Articles which will appear on our Town Warrant at the March Elections. The Deliberative Session is not a Select Board or Budget Committee meeting, although they may have opened and recessed a meeting during this session. The Select Board and Budget Committee members are participating as registered voters, just as you and I, however, their expertise with some subjects may be critical to our understanding of any given Article. This is your opportunity to ask questions and propose amendments to the Warrant Articles. If you don't understand something or need any clarification, please ask. Actual voting on the Warrant Articles will take place on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the New Durham School gymnasium.

Please be aware we are limited in what we may do tonight. We may amend or modify, but we may not change the subject matter of any Article. In the case of Zoning Articles, we cannot amend or modify. Discussion will be limited to what can be done at this meeting, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't ask questions to make sure you understand the proposed Articles. We may not remove an Article from the Warrant, but merely vote on whether articles presented tonight will move to the official ballot as written or as amended. Each Article will be introduced, moved to the floor and seconded, and then I will recognize someone for up to 10 minutes to provide an explanation in support of the article. Members of the public will then be allowed to speak as they are recognized by the Moderator. During the discussion of an Article, if a written amendment has been proposed and seconded, there will be a hand count vote. If the amendment passes (and there is no further discussion or other amendments proposed), that version of the Article will appear on the Town Warrant; if the amendment fails, the original Article will be moved forward as written. Once each Article has been moved forward and deliberation and/or voting has been completed, I would ask that someone make a motion to "Restrict the Article from Reconsideration", have someone else second the motion, and we vote on the motion to Restrict. This will allow the meeting to move smoothly through the Articles and not have them resurface later in the session.

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We will then move on to the next Article until all Articles have been debated and moved on. I will make a few closing remarks before ending the Deliberative Session and turning things over to the Select Board.

This meeting is of town registered voters, who should have received a voter's card after checking in with the Supervisors of the Checklist before taking their seats. If you have not done so, please check-in and get your voter's card now. Other people may attend, but generally will not be allowed to speak unless it is determined they have information pertinent to the discussion.

Warrant articles presented by the Planning Board are governed by NH statutes which contain public hearing provisions. Discussion and questions are allowed, however, the Planning Board Articles go directly to the ballot and cannot be amended by the voters at today's Deliberative Session.

All other Warrant Articles are subject to the Deliberative Session procedures.

Second Session of the Annual Meeting - Voting

The Second Session, the voting on all warrant articles, shall be held on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024** from **8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.** in the New Durham School Gymnasium, located at 7 Old Bay Road in New Durham, NH, where there will be voting by official ballot for the election of Town Officers and all Warrant Articles with any amendments as made at the Deliberative Session.

Moderator Callaway outlined her rules for order during the meeting:

Each Warrant Article, when announced, will be acted upon as follows:

- *Warrant Articles considered tonight will be shown on the screen and read by the Moderator in the order in which they appear. After the article has been read, I will recognize someone for up to 10 minutes to explain the Article. A slight extension may be permitted if the topic of the Article is particularly complicated. In most cases, this will be a member of the Select Board, the Planning Board, or, if filed by petition, a town voter. Members of the public will then be allowed to speak. There are copies of the Town Warrant available to those voters in attendance.*
- *Debate will be encouraged from the voters present, but only one person at a time will be recognized. Please be concise, offer comments relevant to the topic at hand, speak in a courteous manner, and no personal attacks will be permitted.*
- *To speak, you must hold up your voter's card, be recognized by the Moderator, go to the microphone, and clearly state your name and address for the Minutes. If you cannot get to the microphone, let us know and a microphone will be brought to you.*
- *All speakers will be limited to 3 minutes, and all comments must be addressed to me, as Moderator, and not to any other person in attendance. Once you are finished speaking, please yield the microphone to the next person. All voters wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to do so, however a speaker may be recognized for a second time only after all other speakers have been heard. A speaker may not repeat previous comments.*

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- *An Amendment must be made by motion and require a second to be considered, however it must also be in written form and presented to the Moderator to be sure the information is being properly recorded before any vote can be taken.*
- *Voting will be done by holding up your voting card at the appropriate time during a vote. A secret vote may be requested by five (5) voters and must be requested before the discussion of that particular Article has begun.*
- *If carried, the Article as amended, will be placed on the ballot in lieu of the original Article.*
- *If the amendment is not carried, the original Article will be on the ballot as written.*
- *Only one amendment will be allowed at a time.*
- *At the conclusion of the above procedures for each Article, whether deliberated upon or not, the Moderator will entertain a motion to “Move to Restrict Reconsideration” of the Article, ask for a second, vote on and announce if the motion passes, and move on to the next Warrant Article.*
- *Amendments to Amendments and Negative Amendments are not allowed.*
- *Amendments to financial amounts must be stated in dollar amounts to be accepted.*
- *Voter cards will be raised by voters when voting on amendments. Close votes will be counted by assistants to the Moderator.*
- *Warrant Articles do not require a motion to be passed on to the ballot. As discussed above, unless amended by the voters present at today’s Deliberative Session, they will be automatically presented as written on the March 12, 2024, Election Ballot.*
- *The Moderator will not allow any Motion to Restrict from Reconsideration until there has been time provided for voters to discuss and/or amend any Article presented.*

By majority vote, any voter can overrule any decision the Moderator makes or rule the Moderator establishes. The voter may raise such a request as a Point of Order.

Article 1: The Election of Officers:

To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year:

<i>Number of Positions</i>	<i>Candidates</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Term of Office</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Ken Ross-Raymond Dorothy Veisel</i>	<i>Selectman</i>	<i>3 Years</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Linda Callaway</i>	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>2 Years</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Ken Fanjoy Paul Patrick Perry Jeff Kratovil</i>	<i>Budget Committee</i>	<i>3 Years 3 Years</i>
<i>1</i>		<i>John C. Shirley Cemetery Trustee</i>	<i>3 Years</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Marilee DeCoff Bill Meyer</i>	<i>Library Trustee</i>	<i>3 Years 3 Years</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Jeff Allard</i>	<i>Planning Board</i>	<i>3 Years</i>

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1	Angela Puritt	Supervisor of the Checklist	6 Years
1	David Bickford	Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 Years
1		Zoning Board of Adjustment	3 Years
1		Zoning Board of Adjustment	1 Years

Article 2: *Are you in favor of Amendment No. 1 to the New Durham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Amend Article VI, General Provisions / Use Regulations, to reduce the setback for septic tanks from the edge of a public water body from 125 feet to 75 feet; and apply the leach field setback of 20-40 feet from property lines, depending on the size of the lot, to privies and septic tanks as well. And Delete Article XX.G to maintain consistency with leach field setbacks. Also, to change the reference in Table 8 regarding wetland and water body setbacks to identify setbacks to “leach fields” rather than “septic systems.”*

Majority Vote Required

Yes _____ No _____

The Planning Board recommends this article by a 5 to 0 vote.

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 2.

Jeff Allard, Chair of the Planning Board, explained this proposal was brought to the Planning Board by both the ZBA and the Building Inspector; it will separate the setbacks for septic tanks and leach fields; he stated this is particularly relevant to small lots that don't have the space for the waterfront setbacks.

Article 3: *Are you in favor of Amendment No. 2 to the New Durham Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Amend Article XIV, Shorefront Conservation Overlay District, to remove the requirement that deviations from the district's requirements obtain both a variance and a special exception; to clarify the difference between wetland buffers and wetland setbacks; to clarify that nonconforming structures (which includes dwellings, garages, ADUs and shed greater than 80 SF) within the Overlay District may be demolished and rebuilt provided the rebuilt structure's footprint does not exceed the original structure's footprint, and the rebuilt structure contains only two stories; to provide that construction of dwellings, garages, ADUs and shed greater than 80 SF within the 75 foot Waterfront Setback requires a conditional use permit from the planning board; to require the building inspector / code enforcement officer to review all plans before disturbance of land and / or soil removal; and to remove the required leach field setbacks for nonconforming buildings.*

Majority Vote Required

Yes _____ No _____

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The Planning Board recommends this article by a 5 to 0 vote.

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 3.

Chair Allard stated new requirements were established two years ago for setbacks within the shorefront setback and this amendment is clarifying the language regarding moving the structure as far back as possible; he stated it also addresses the concept of whether foundations are grandfathered but per the State of New Hampshire recommendations, a structure must be moved back as far as possible if it is within the waterfront setback.

Greg Sullivan, resident, stated with the way the current ordinance is written, they can tear down and rebuild with two stories but the new one says “only” two stories but no mention of a foundation. Chair Allard stated the ordinance will allow for a foundation and two stories of living space. Mr. Sullivan asked if there is a height limit, why is there a limit to the number of stories. Chair Allard replied that within the waterfront setback, the height restriction is measured from the lowest point and the intent is to balance the rights of property owners with abutters, to preserve the use and views.

John Sheckler, resident, stated he is concerned about the septic tank setback changing from 125 to 75 feet; he stated there is a lot of water recreation on Merrymeeting Lake and he wants to make sure the change won't affect the water quality and suggested changing the setback to 100 feet. Chair Allard state there are 100s of very small lots around the lake and variances are constantly needed; the ZBA is generally favorable to allowing the variance from 125 feet because many of the lots don't even have 125' in depth. He stated they are going to ask for more information and guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; he stated there is data with the State regarding setbacks and explained those are often based on soil types.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Jarvis. Second by Mr. Craycraft. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 4: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,047,923. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,033,440, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold a special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Majority Vote Required

[Note: Operating Budget & Default Budget includes the Library Budget.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact – 2024 Proposed Budget: \$ 6.531 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Estimated Tax Rate Impact – 2024 Default Budget: \$ 6.507 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

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The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 3 to 0 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 6 to 1 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 4.

Terry Jarvis, Chair of the Budget Committee, stated the budget review process started in August with a joint meeting of the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen to develop budget guidelines for all departments and committees. The proposed budget then goes to the Board of Selectmen for revisions and approvals; the proposed budget is then reviewed by the Budget Committee. Chair Jarvis stated department heads and committees present their requests and justification for their requests. She stated the public hearing was held on January 10, 2024 and that is the opportunity for members of the public to make comments and changes can be made at that time. Chair Jarvis stated there are increases across a multitude of lines including health insurances and benefits, wages and the mileage reimbursement rate.

David Swenson, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, gave an overview of the operating budget increases; he stated line items were modified within the accounts and some lines were reduced. He stated the line for mapping is up this year for a one-time activity; legal expenses are up as there have been a lot of land use issues; the Building Inspector was changed as well. Chair Swenson stated the last bond by the Town will be paid off in August of 2024; he also outlined the projected revenue which do not reflect any funds from the unassigned fund balance yet. Chair Swenson stated the FY 2023 Operational Budget was \$3,991,499 and the FY Operational Budget is proposed to be \$4,097,923 for a 1.4% increase.

David Bickford, resident, presented an amendment to add \$4,500 to the 2024 Operating Budget to provide a \$500 stipend to the regular members of the Planning and Zoning Boards for a new total operating budget in the amount of "\$4,052,423".

Terry Jarvis, resident, stated under the law, there are five regular members of the ZBA and Planning Board; by adding this amount, each member will receive \$450. She stated it will be up to the Board of Selectmen where these funds go.

Chair Swenson asked if any of the surrounding towns do this for the Planning and ZBA boards. Mr. Bickford stated he isn't sure if the surrounding towns do, but there are some in the state that do; he does not know the amounts.

Scott Drummey, resident, stated he has been on the Planning Board for over 20 years; he doesn't object to the stipend but doesn't expect to be paid for the position and suggested additional research be done to see how other towns handle it.

Jeff Kratovil, resident, stated significant changes are being proposed to the setbacks but no empirical evidence has been presented to justify the change; he stated Mr. Bickford suggested a stipend of \$500 but a laundry list of things to look at are being suggested.

Moderator Callaway called for a vote on the amendment. Amendment passed with a majority of voter cards.

Moderator Callaway read into the record the amended **Article 4:** *Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,052,423. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,033,440, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold a special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.*

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Mr. Drummey. Second by Ms. Ross-Raymond. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 5: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 for the purposes of a Road Program with said appropriation to be offset by an anticipated \$114,000 from the Highway Block Grant and the remainder to come from general taxation.*

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.461 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 3 to 0 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 7 to 0 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 5.

Marc DeCoff, Board of Selectmen, stated they realize many roads in Town need work but they are only recommending \$400,000 for this year with the hope that costs will come down in future years.

Greg Sullivan, resident, asked if residents have a say as to which roads the funds are used for. Chair Swenson stated the Board of Selectmen will always listen to taxpayers and residents as to what they feel are important along with the input from the Road Agent. He stated they will also rely on a variety of inputs and assessments to determine which roads need to be addressed.

Judy Purrington, Department of Public Works, stated there are water mitigation issues particularly on South Shore Road; she stated work needs to be done with culverts before other upgrades can be done to the roads and stormwater needs to be mitigated before moving forward.

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Mr. DeCoff stated South East Land Trust met with the Board of Selectmen and explained work was done prior to a drought in 2021; there were no issues until the storm events of this past year and due to clear cutting of about 80% of the trees on the SELT land, the water is coming down the hill and causing issues.

Cecile Chase, Interim Town Administrator, stated they are working with SELT and to get other experts to give advice for stormwater tactics for both the Town and homeowners.

Anne Ross-Raymond, resident, stated based on what she has heard, if culvert work is considered an emergency, the funds could be used for it. Chair Swenson clarified the funds are not constrained to emergency use only.

Jeff Kratoivil, resident, stated under the old road service management plan, South Shore Road was on a reclaim schedule and suggested they check the schedule for maintenance.

Ms. Purrington explained it is going to take some time to get the process together to get the base of the road done; she stated they have the roads assessed by Strafford County Regional Planning and they are hoping with this program, the roads that need to be fixed, will get on the schedule.

Ken Ross-Raymond, resident, asked what the cost is to rebuild a mile of road. Ms. Purrington stated it varies but it would be roughly \$1,000,000 per mile. Chair Swenson stated in 2017/18, it was that rate and expects the costs have increased since then.

Kelly Bisson, resident, stated Copple Crown Village District looked at paving about 2-3 miles of road in the district and the low end of the estimates were \$3,000,000 to get the work, including culverts, done.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Jarvis. Second by Mr. Fanjoy. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 6: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$305,000 to be placed in previously established Public Works related **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows with said funds to come from taxation:*

Account	Created	2024
Highway Trucks	March 4, 1988, Article #9	\$180,000
Vehicle & Equipment		
Maintenance	March 10, 2010, Article #15	\$20,000
Road Reconstruction	March 10, 2010, Article #5	\$100,000
Gravel	March 13, 2012, Article #12 Purpose change March 10, 2020 Article #12	
		\$5,000
		Total \$305,000

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.492 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

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The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 2 to 1 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 5 to 2 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 6.

Angela Pruitt, resident, asked who was against this article on the boards. Mr. DeCoff stated he voted against the article because the items were combined. Mr. Ross-Raymond stated he is not opposed the items within the article or the fact these are combined but he was informed at the public hearing that voters in 2019, voted to separate the articles and he is opposed to not listening to the voters.

Chair Swenson stated there was a petition article in 2019 that passed but it is not legally binding; in 2023 the Board of Selectmen made the decision to combine similar items and make the ballot less time consuming to the voters. Mr. Ross-Raymond stated he understands it being cumbersome but believes the citizens should have been informed how cumbersome the process would be.

David Bickford, resident, stated the article in 2019 specified that expendable trust funds and capital reserve funds be voted on individually on the town warrant. He stated the next year a lot of items lost funding; he stated he believes they should follow what the citizens want.

Ellen Phillips, resident, stated six or seven years ago there was a vote regarding the police department and Mr. Bickford stated that the vote was only advisory, with the Board of Selectmen having the final say. She stated people were upset last year about the number of warrant articles so the Board of Selectmen tried to group items together to reduce the amount of time in the voting booth.

Mr. Fanjoy stated he voted in favor of this article because it showed where the funds would be allocated and doesn't believe it violates anything.

Chair Swenson stated it doesn't make sense to waste voters time when they are going to vote in favor of something anyways.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Orlowicz. Second by Mr. Fanjoy. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 7: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 to be placed in previously established Municipal Facility Land related **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows with said funds to come from taxation:*

Account	Created	2024
Municipal Facility Land Acquisition	March 13,2007, Article #8	\$120,000

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Total	\$120,000
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Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.194 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a **3 to 0** vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a **7 to 0** vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 7.

Mr. DeCoff stated last year the Board of Selectmen was considering the proposal for a public facility on the current location; he stated many residents didn't agree so a committee was developed to look at town land available as well as private property. The committee found a property that would work and this article would fund that purchase.

Mr. Bickford asked what the current balance of the capital reserve fund is. Chair Swenson stated the balance was around \$57,310.

Mr. Ahlin, resident, asked why land is being purchased before having the voters decide on the project. Mr. DeCoff stated the opportunity for the land is now and the price is reasonable. Chair Swenson stated Mr. Ahlin is correct that there is no engineering plan yet but the opportunity for the land is now and the land could be sold in the future.

Mr. Sullivan asked if there is any consideration for response time to different parts of town. Mr. DeCoff stated there has been consideration to that. Chair Swenson confirmed there is no purchase and sale agreement but the property will accommodate the public facility space needs.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Orlowicz. Second by Mr. DeCoff. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Moderator Callaway called for a five minute recess.

The Deliberative Session reconvened at 9:05 PM.

Article 8: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in previously established Public Safety related **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows with said funds to come from taxation:*

Account	Created	2024
Police Cruisers	March 15, 2000, Article #7	\$15,000

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Fire Vehicles	March 12, 2003, Article #11	\$20,000
Fire Department Ancillary Equipment Non-Vehicle	March 10, 2015, Article #5	\$15,000
Total		\$35,000

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.081 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 2 to 1 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 6 to 1 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 8.

Chair Swenson stated the contribution to Police Cruisers is lower than in 2023 as voters indicated support for revolving funds to be applied to the purchase of a vehicle and there will be incremental transitions to lower funding in future years.

There was no discussion on Article 8.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Mr. Baker. Second by Mr. Meyer. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 9: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be placed in previously established New Durham Water Quality & Milfoil related **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows with said funds to come from taxation:*

Account	Created	2024
Milfoil Treatment	March 11, 2009, Article #6 Amended for Purpose Change March 12, 2019, Article #11	\$15,000
Total		\$15,000

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.024 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 3 to 0 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 7 to 0 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

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Moderator Callaway opened discussion for Article 9.

Mr. DeCoff stated this is to do milfoil treatments on the Town’s waterbodies; the fund is currently at \$38,000 but will need to be replenished.

Casey Buell, Chair of the New Durham Water Quality Committee, explained the work done by the committee and the importance of protecting the waters in Town. She stated the water is the main industry for businesses and residences. She also explained the dangers of milfoil and how easily it can be transported between waterbodies.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Bisson. Second by Mr. Meyer. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

*Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,000 to be placed in previously established Facilities related **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows with said funds to come from taxation:*

Account	Created	2024
Smith Ballfield Improvements	March 11, 2008, Article #9	\$5,000
Public Safety Facilities	March 10, 2010, Article #17	\$35,000
Library Facilities Improvement	March 13, 2007, Article #7	\$4,000
Total		\$44,000

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.071 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 2 to 1 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 5 to 2 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 10.

Chair Swenson explained these funds are for capital reserve funds with the intention of building up the funds.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Orlowicz. Second by Mr. DeCoff. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 11: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$20,000, to be added to the 1772 Meetinghouse Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, for urgently needed structural repair. Further, to direct the New Durham Board of Selectmen to work with the 1772 Meetinghouse Restoration Committee to find qualified restoration contractors and complete this work as soon as possible.

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Account	Created	2024
1772 Meetinghouse	March 15, 2000, Article #14	\$20,000
Total		\$20,000

(Majority vote required)

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.032 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommend this article by a 3 to 0 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 7 to 0 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 10.

Mr. DeCoff stated these funds are for contributions to the capital reserve fund.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Mr. Swenson. Second by Ms. Jarvis. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 12: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$140,000 to be placed in previously established **Expendable Trust Funds** as follows with said funds to come from taxation:*

Account	Created	2024
Computer Systems & Office Equipment	March 13, 1996, Article #11 Revised March 9, 2011, Article #26	\$50,000
Records Management Fund	March 23, 1999, Article #23	\$15,000
Town Buildings & Improvements Fund	March 15, 2000, Article #15	\$75,000
Total		\$140,000

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.226 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 2 to 1 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 5 to 2 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 12.

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Chair Swenson stated software upgrades are continuing at Town Hall; the records management project is being looked at for 2024; he stated there are areas of Town Hall that need work and structural improvements. These funds will be used to address those issues.

Interim Town Administrator Chase stated the Town Hall is about 115 years old and there is a lot that needs to be done; she stated the community will also need to decide if this building will continue to work as an office building.

Pat Grant, resident, thanked everyone for their continued work to preserve the Town Hall.

Mr. Allard asked if the computer systems and records management include implementing the Avitar software for the land use boards. He stated there are severe problems with record keeping in the land use departments which result in lack of inspections and follow-ups. Chair Swenson confirmed the land use departments will be looked at closely. Interim Town Administrator Chase stated the contract assessor is currently working to transfer all the tax cards to Avitar and the transition is being worked on.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Orlowicz. Second by Mr. Drummey. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

*Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in previously established **Expendable Trust Funds** as follows with said funds to come from taxation:*

Account	Created	2024
Accrued Benefit Liability Fund	March 1992, Article #16	\$15,000
New Durham Dam Maintenance	March 13, 2018, Article #13	\$5,000
Total		\$20,000

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.032 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 2 to 1 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 5 to 2 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 13.

Chair Swenson stated they are awaiting a report for these items but the intent is to keep the funds built up. He explained the Accrued Benefit ETF is for employees who retire and are owed paid-time-off. Chair Swenson stated this ETF is currently underfunded at this point.

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MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Mr. Evans. Second by Mr. Allard. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,000 for the purposes of funding contributions to Health & Other Agencies i.e. Cornerstone VNA, CAP of Strafford County, Kingswood Youth Center, and Strafford Nutrition – Meals on Wheels with this sum to come from authorizing the withdrawal of \$7,000 from the JC Shirley Timber Trust (Trust Fund #28). Said trust established for the purpose to “benefit of the Town of New Durham for such lawful purposes as the Town may direct at its annual meeting.”

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 3 to 0 vote.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 7 to 0 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened discussion for Article 14.

Allison Butafuoco, resident, asked if the Kingswood Youth Center is part of the school. It was confirmed that is a separate program. Interim Town Administrator Chase stated it is a non-profit organization started by the Wolfeboro Rotary; it provides a safety net for many disadvantaged children throughout the district. She stated great programs are offered throughout the year and help prepare students for life.

Anne Ross-Raymond, resident, asked for clarification on the zero tax rate impact. Chair Swenson stated a trust was set up many years ago with strong constraints that required this process be followed for funding; he confirmed tax payers do not fund the charitable organizations but in the future further consideration will be needed when the trust fund is gone.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Cullimore. Second by Ms. Jarvis. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to align the Municipal Facility Land Acquisition CRF established in March 13, 2007, Article #8 with other CRF's in the Town and to change the current default agents to expend being the Trustees of the Trust Fund to identify the agents to expend the Municipal Facility Land Acquisition as the Board of Selectmen.

Majority Vote Required

Estimated 2024 Tax Rate Impact: \$ 0.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a 3 to 0 vote.

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The Budget Committee recommends this article by a 6 to 1 vote.

Yes _____ No _____

Moderator Callaway opened the meeting to discussion for Article 15.

Chair Swenson explained the Trustee of the Trust Fund found that a designated agent to expend was not identified for this article, which is required by State law. The Board of Selectmen and Trustees of the Trust Funds agreed designated the Board of Selectmen as such.

MOTION: To restrict from consideration. Motion by Ms. Bisson. Second by Mr. Drummey. Motion passed with a majority of voter cards.

Article 16: *To conduct any other business which may legally come before the Town.*

Mr. Bickford stated at the last Planning Board meeting there was discussion about establishing an official capital improvement program on the warrant and asked what came of it. Chair Swenson and Mr. DeCoff stated nothing came before the Board of Selectmen to be placed on the warrant. Ms. Ross-Raymond stated there was a specific recommendation by the Planning Board to the Board of Selectmen to put it on the warrant to have it align more consistently with the State statute, which would allow the committee to report to the Board of Selectmen instead of being handled by the Planning Board. Chair Swenson stated he would be receptive to that but hasn't been informed about it.

Moderator Callaway: The Town would love to have additional volunteers to work as ballot clerks or greeters at our many elections this year. We are hoping that everyone was amazed and pleased with the streamlined electronic check-in process, but if we could get more workers, we could have shorter shifts so as not to overtax our volunteers. Please contact the Town Clerk or myself, if you are interested.

The upcoming Candidates' Night to meet many of the names listed in Article #1 is scheduled for Wednesday evening, February 21, 2024 at 6:30 PM at the New Durham Community Room and is on the town website's calendar. Please take this opportunity to meet the candidates and ask questions.

Also please take a look at open positions on the ballot. Many of our committees and boards are looking for "a few good people", and write-ins are encouraged on Election Day. We'd love to see some fresh faces supporting the town. I would encourage anyone to attend one of the meetings or watch the live streams to see if there is some town committee you would be interested in and contribute your unique knowledge and perspective.

In preparation for the upcoming Town Election on March 12, 2024, get a copy of the Sample Ballot or review the video of tonight's meeting to help you make an informed vote on Election Day.

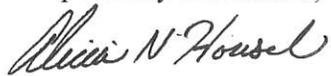
The Deliberative Session was adjourned at 9:54 PM.

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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia N. Housel".

Alicia Housel

Town Clerk