

Town of Plymouth
New Hampshire
Annual Town Meeting Minutes

MARCH 9, 2022

To the inhabitants of the town of Plymouth in the County of Grafton in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Plymouth Elementary School in said Plymouth on Tuesday, the 8th of March, next, polls to be open for voting on Article 1 at 8:00 o'clock in the forenoon, and to close not earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, and you are hereby notified to meet at the Plymouth Elementary School in said Plymouth on Wednesday, the 9th of March, next at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon for the deliberative session of the Town Meeting at which time action will be taken upon the remaining articles of this warrant.

Article 01: Election of officers

To elect the following town officers which appear on the official town ballot for the ensuing year:

TOWN ELECTION RESULTS:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|
| (2) Selectman – 3 years: | William R. Bolton, Jr | 321 |
| | Neil F. McIver | 306 |
| | Bruce Wiggett, Jr | 261 |
| | Joshua Harding | 155 |
| (1) Town Clerk – 3 years: | Josie Girona Ewing | 455 |
| | Amanda Conaway | 101 |
| (1) Tax Collector – 3 years: | Linda Buffington | 532 |
| (1) Cemetery Trustee – 3 years: | Jenny Thibeault | 518 |
| (1) Library Trustee – 3 years: | Ann Petrou | 493 |
| (2) Trustee of Trust Funds – 3 years: | Write-in, no declared winner | |
| | Write-in, no declared winner | |

Article 02 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Plymouth as follows: amend the definition of Fence in Section 202 for clarification and accuracy; and amend Section 414 (General Provisions) to clarify requirements related to fences regarding height, building permits, and where fences are permitted?

YES 427 NO 117

Article 2 passes

Article 03 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Plymouth as follows: delete setback requirements for constructing additions to pre-existing nonconforming residential structures from Section 304 and add them to Section 405; delete requirements for structures on nonconforming lots from Section 401.2 (Existing Lots of Record) and add them to Section 405; and amend Section 405 (Nonconforming Uses) to clarify nonconforming uses, add requirements for nonconforming lots, and nonconforming structures.

YES 383 NO 153

Article 3 passes

Article 04 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Plymouth as follows: amend Section 403 (Temporary Uses and Structures) to clarify standards, including adequate sanitary facilities, for the use of temporary dwellings for limited periods; to prohibit recreational vehicles and tents being used as permanent dwellings; to permit property owners or their guests to occupy no more than two recreational vehicles or tents on the property for no more than 120 days in any calendar year; and permit property owners to store unoccupied recreational vehicles which they own on their property under certain conditions?

YES 426 NO 123

Article 4 passes

Article 05 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Plymouth as follows: amend Section 1204.3 to establish more comprehensive standards for Special Exceptions granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment for Multiple Unit Dwellings (of three to six units)?

YES 407 NO 132

Article 5 passes

Deliberative Session

The second session of the legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Plymouth, NH was held in the gymnasium of the Plymouth Elementary School on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The 259th Annual Meeting of the Town of Plymouth, NH opened at 7:00pm with Moderator Robert Clay leading those present with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Clay read the election results.

Chairperson William R. Bolton, Jr. read a statement on behalf of the Select Board, stating that they worked with the Budget Committee and Department Heads to provide a budget focused on infrastructure and purchasing needs. A wage study found municipal employees have been underpaid in comparison to towns of similar population. The Select Board increased employee wages to fit the results of this study.

Article 06 Keno - Petitioned Article

Petitioned Article - Shall we allow the operation of Keno games within the Town?

Mr. Dave Chapman, owner of Lucky Dog, made a motion to move the article and his motion was seconded.

Mr. Chapman addressed why our town should adopt this warrant article. Revenue from Keno games is distributed back to municipalities by the Department of Education with the exception of a percentage of the meals and room tax which is returned to business owners, to be used at their discretion. The following towns have adopted this warrant article: Center Harbor, Lincoln, Portsmouth and Woodstock. Mr. Chapman would like to create a scholarship fund to contribute to Junior Panthers.

Mr. John Tucker asked Mr. Chapman to explain what Keno games are.

Mr. Chapman explained that Keno games are electronic scratch tickets. The passage of Keno games will provide additional financial support to restaurants that may feel an impact from this road infrastructure project on Main Street.

Ms. Patrice Scott opposes this petitioned warrant article out-of-concern of not encouraging gambling as it can be an addictive behavior for some individuals.

Mr. Christopher Mumford inquired which restaurants qualify to have Keno?

Mr. Chapman explained that any establishment with a liquor license is eligible to offer Keno games. The University of New Hampshire (UNH) studied the effects of Keno on communities and they found Keno did not affect addiction and crime rates.

Mr. Michael Ahern would like Keno to be discussed more as he feels critical information on how the funds are disbursed may be missing.

Mr. Chapman explained that 92 percent of the funds raised by Keno is placed in a state operated trust fund to be disbursed to public schools. There are towns, such as Woodstock, that do not receive any funding whereas Plymouth's school system has historically received state funding.

Ms. Brooke Wakefield asked Mr. Chapman what the projected tax impact would be.

Mr. Chapman provided The Mug, a restaurant located in Center Harbor, as an example of earning an additional forty-two thousand dollars in revenue by offering Keno.

YES 73 NO 53

Article 6 declared as passed by Moderator Clay.

Article 07 General Governmental & Department Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,699,814 for FY 22/23 general governmental and Departmental expenses, as follows:

Salaries, Fees and Expenses - Selectmen's Office \$421,125
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics - Town Clerk's Office \$164,312
Financial Administration \$373,701
Reappraisal of Property \$70,000
Contract Services Legal & others \$209,912
Planning and Zoning \$205,651
Land Use Enforcement \$26,811
General Government Buildings \$61,000
Cemeteries \$63,906
Misc. Insurance (workers comp, liability & unemployment) \$203,210
Advertising & Regional Association \$6,253
Emergency Management \$40,803
Police Dispatch \$533,843
Fire Department \$1,590,330
Ambulance \$152,069
Airport \$7,664
Recreation Programs \$434,537
Recreation Parks & Grounds \$298,664
Library \$524,432
Care of Trees \$7,000
Patriotic Purposes \$4,700
Other Culture & Recreation \$12,100
NH Humane Society \$6,500
Health Officers \$10,000
Welfare Officer \$12,929
Welfare Vendor Payments \$70,000
Recycling/Solid Waste Disposal \$539,750
Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District Dues \$4,709
Infrastructure Bond Payment #7 Approved 2016 \$214,882
Infrastructure Bond Payment #2 Approved 2020 \$285,000
Library Expansion Project Bond Payment #12 \$136,971
Conservation Commission \$7,050

The Select Board recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$5.81/\$1,000 in property valuation

Mr. Henry Ahern made a motion to cut the budget by 5 percent, not including wages and benefits, seconded.

Ms. Katie Hedberg spoke in opposition of the budgetary amendment.

Ms. Valerie Scarborough also spoke in opposition of this amendment. She believes that the Select Board has acted proactively to maintain the employees we have and to be a competitive employer in our region.

Ms. Danielle Downing clarified that the motion did not include wages and benefits.

Ms. Brooke Wakefield opposes this amendment. She inquired whether the town has appropriated enough funds with consideration to the raise in fuel costs.

Mr. Ahern expressed his concern over the tax rate, which has steadily increased due to non-profit organizations that makeup our community.

Ms. Ursula Huber stated that while Mr. Ahern's request may sound reasonable, departments rely on proper funding to maintain the needs of our town.

Mr. Paul SanSoucie provided a solution, which is to contact our state legislature for additional funding. He supports passage of this budget.

Mr. Joseph Dube asks town administration to take the community into consideration when drafting their budgets as the cost of living has increased.

Ms. Joan Randlett concurred as senior citizens are living on a fixed income. Non-profit entities makeup more than sixty percent of this town.

Mr. David Nash questioned whether the town is losing employees to other employers. He opposes the budget because the town already has a high tax rate.

A motion to move the amendment was made and seconded.

The amendment failed, returning to the original warrant article.

Mr. John Tucker made a motion to reduce the budget by 11 percent as he does not feel the town can afford an increase to the tax rate. He would like the town to prioritize other budget items over increasing wages this year.

The amendment failed, returning to the original warrant article.

A motion was made to pass the original warrant article and seconded.

Article 7 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 08 Full Time Fire/EMS Personnel

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$86,678 for the purpose of hiring on additional full time Fire/EMS employee. This amount is for wage and benefits associated with that position. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.17/\$1,000 in property valuation

A motion to move the warrant article and seconded.

Chief Tom Morrison said the fire department broke the record for call volume over the past year. The number of employees available to respond to these calls is low and the number of volunteer staff is dwindling. Out of 300 emergencies, 55 of them had to be responded to by other towns as staff were unavailable to answer. This full-time employee would work day shifts, which is the busiest time of the day.

Mr. Dave Moorhead is in favor of this warrant article. He spoke from experience as he has served as a volunteer for the fire department. Dave would like the community to prioritize the importance of having adequate staffing for our emergency services. Our current staff are being overworked due to lack of staffing. The cost of overtime is more than the cost of employing an additional staff member.

Ms. Gisela Estes is supportive of this warrant article. She is thankful for our first responders because they were quick to provide her family with emergency assistance.

Mr. David Kent is also supportive of this warrant article. He inquired whether the town receives offsetting revenues for responding to out-of-town emergencies.

Chief Morrison explained that the town bills for ambulance services. The town was unable to provide transportation services to the 55 emergencies, which meant the town could not bill for ambulance services, totaling a total of one thousand dollars lost per call.

Article 8 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 09 Part Time Recycling Ctr Employee

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,287 for the purpose of hiring a part-time employee for the Plymouth Recycling Center. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.04/\$1,000 in property valuation.

A motion to move and seconded.

Mr. Henry Ahern inquired whether the position would be replacing a full-time employee or creating a position?

Recycling Manager Jessie Jennings said the warrant article will add a new position.

Article 9 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Chairperson William R. Bolton, Jr. made a motion to restrict warrant articles 6-9 and seconded.

His motion was declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Mr. John Tucker asked the Select Board what the impact on the tax rate will be if the entire warrant is passed?

Select Board member Mr. Zach Tirrell explained that the impact would be \$2.04; however, this amount is an estimate as any revenue will reduce this amount.

Article 10 Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Selectboard and AFSME, Council 93, which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level (for police and fire employees)

| FISCAL YEAR | ESTIMATED INCREASE | TOTAL |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 22/23 | Police \$44,553 Fire \$127,047 | \$171,600 |
| 23/24 | Police \$54,810 Fire \$145,194 | \$200,004 |
| 24/25 | Police \$88,323 Fire \$166,198 | \$254,521 |

And further to raise and appropriate the amount of \$171,600 for the FY 22/23, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over that of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article. (Majority vote required)

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.35/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Mr. John Randlett inquired why the Fire Department has higher salary and benefit increases than the Police Department?

Chief Tom Morrison explained the wage study showed that personnel at the fire department are considerably underpaid compared to other departments.

Mr. Randlett said the police department worked on prorating wages and benefits over a 5-year period.

Select Board member Mr. Zach Tirrell said the Collective Bargaining Committee worked on this portion of the budget. During an average week, firefighters were working over 40 hours and were not collecting overtime. The reason the fire department's wages and benefits are increasing is to fairly pay them for the actual number of hours worked.

Mr. John Tucker said pay raises are usually negotiated with percentages and inquired what the percentage increase is?

Mr. Tirrell said the increase the first year is 0% but will be 8% over the course of two years. The police department will also have 8%.

Chief Morrison said they are trying to retain current personnel. They lost two key employees last year and had to make up for the loss with training which also comes with costs.

Ms. Jane Hinkle is not happy with the tax rate, but does not believe in skimping on emergency services.

Ms. Aimee Lee asked when the wage study was done?

Mr. Tirrell said the adjustments for the wage study are located in the General Government portion of the budget.

Article 10 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 11 Authorization Special Town Mtg

Shall the Town, if warrant article #10 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address warrant article #10 cost items only? (Majority vote)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Article 12 Police Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,778,199 for FY 22/23 police department and to further offset for this appropriation by authorizing a withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Police Special Detail Fund.

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$3.53/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Ms. Brooke Wakefield said the actual revenues were much higher last year than the projected revenues for 2022.

Select Board member Mr. Zach Tirrell asked to confirm whether Brooke is looking at the correct page. He confirmed that residents should turn to a different section to refer to anticipated revenues.

Ms. Wakefield asked what the anticipated revenue is for 2022 and what the actual revenue was in 2021?

Finance Director Anne Abear explained that the town is estimated to bring in more revenue and the actual revenue from the year prior was more due to the bond.

Article 12 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 13 Police Parking

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$105,946 for the purpose of funding the FY 22/23 Police Parking Department and to further authorize the withdrawal of \$30,000 from the parking special revenue fund to offset this appropriation.

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.15/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Ms. Aimee Lee inquired whether the new park mobile application is generating more revenue?

Police Chief Hutchins explained that the park mobile application is saving the town funds as the metered parking had maintenance costs. The Town has been using the application for four months and the town has collected over \$20,000 in revenue.

Mr. Chris Sanborn said he believes the police department is doing an excellent job, but Mr. Sanborn encourages residents to weigh what warrant articles are more important to pass as the tax rate is high.

Mr. John Tucker asked whether the police department is saving money with the mobile parking application?

Police Chief Hutchins said it is hard to tell as it was just implemented, but he believes this new system is working and will generate more revenue.

Mr. Dave Chapman inquired why the cost per hour to park increased by .75 cents?

Police Chief Hutchins explained that the fee is \$1.00/hour to park in town, but the minimum to park is not an hour.

Select Board member Mr. Zach Tirrell said the revenue that offsets this budget is located in another section of the budget.

Mr. Henry Ahern asked how this budget compares to the year prior?

Mr. Tirrell said \$13,000 dollars.

Article 13 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 14 Police School Resource Officer

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$142,213 for the purpose of funding the FY 22/23 Police School Resource Officer. This appropriation to be offset by \$106,660 from the SAU #48 School System.

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.07/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Article 14 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Select Board member Ms. Maryann Barnsley made a motion to restrict reconsideration of warrant articles 10-14 and seconded.

Her motion was declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 15 Discontinue 1991 Ladder Truck CR Fund

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the 1991 Ladder Truck CR Fund created in 2005. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required)

Motion to move and seconded. No discussion.

Article 15 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 16 Proceeds from 1991 Ladder Truck CR Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,204 to be added to the Tower Truck CR Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance funds created with the discontinuation of the 1991 Ladder Truck CR Fund previously moved to the Tower Truck CR Fund. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommend this warrant article.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Motion to move and seconded. No discussion.

Article 16 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 17 Fire Engine Lease - 5 year

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a Five (5)-year lease to purchase agreement in the amount of \$732,600 for the purpose of leasing/purchasing a Fire Engine, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$157,641 to fund the first year's payment. This is year 1 of a 5-year lease to purchase agreement. This lease agreement contains a non-appropriation escape clause. (Majority vote required)

This Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.52/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Fire Chief Tom Morrison explained that if the town orders this fire engine now, the vehicle will be available in 22 months. The current fire engine is increasingly unreliable and maintenance costs are high. Average maintenance costs should not exceed \$10k, but maintenance fees for this fire engine are now over \$20k.

Chief Morrison also thanked the Truck Committee, membership includes former Deputy Chief Jeremy Bonan, Deputy Chief Kevin Pierce, Captain Brian Tobine, Lieutenant Mark McGlone and Firefighter Driscoll.

Mr. Jim Horan spoke in favor of this warrant article. The reliability of equipment and vehicles is paramount for the Fire Department in addition to the safety of crew members. He asks the town to support this warrant article.

Mr. John Randlett inquired whether the town will own the truck after the 5-year lease ends?

Chief Morrison said the town will own the vehicle when the lease ends.

Ms. Brooke Wakefield inquired why the town has decided to not bond this warrant article?

Chief Morrison said he discussed both options with the Select Board and they found the interest rates either way were competitive, but the best option was to lease this vehicle.

Select Board member Mr. Zach Tirrell said the reason why they opted for a 5-year lease plan was to consider other vehicles that will be leased.

Mr. Henry Ahern asked if there is a capital reserve fund to replace this equipment?

Chief Morrison said this fund cannot be used to lease equipment.

Mr. John Tucker said he was curious about what happens to the vehicle and what the trade in value is?

Chief Morrison said the trade in value is \$13,000.

Article 17 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 18 Highway & Street Lighting

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,235,407 for FY 22/23 for the Highway Department, as follows:

Highway Department \$1,173,407
Street Lighting \$62,000

And further to offset this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Municipal Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose.

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$2.43/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Mr. Chris Sanborn inquired why this warrant article is not included in the general budget?

Select Board member Mr. Zach Tirrell explained when funds are withdrawn from capital reserve, the item must be formed as a warrant article.

Mr. Henry Ahern inquired whether the town can fill the pot holes owned by the State of New Hampshire?

Mr. John Tucker said the roads are deplorable. While winter weather conditions have been hard on roads, he has not seen any maintenance on these roads during the summer season. There are many streets, such as Thurlow Street, that need work. He would like to know if the Highway Department has a long-range plan to work on roads?

Highway Manager Mr. Joseph Fagnant said the town tries to locate and fill any pot holes that the state has not filled in.

Ms. Brooke Wakefield inquired what roads will be addressed this year?

Mr. Fagnant said he plans on finishing Bartlett Road and to do some repairs on New Hebron Road. He could not begin working on other roads as he had to freeze his budget for the purpose of receiving grants.

Mr. John Randlett asked how much it would cost to fix all the roads in town?

Mr. Fagnant said the amount is astronomical. They will be conducting surveys on culverts and drainage to create a mapping system. This system will help him generate a 10-year plan for road infrastructure changes. This system will also be accessible to the public. They are also pushing for an improved capital reserve plan.

Mr. Randlett said between a reduction in assessment and an increase in non-profit organizations, the Select Board need to create a plan.

Mr. Fagnant said most of the funds will be applied to the roads he has made mention of and he will try to work on some sidewalks.

Ms. Jane Hinkle asked how the Highway Department derives what streets will be worked on? She resides on Pleasant Street, which is a frequently traveled street due to college students.

Mr. Fagnant said his team has to start with the bottom of the road to assess for any drainage problems, which determines what roads are worked on. To do South Main Street, they had to start with Russell Street due to the drainage of water down to South Main Street. Once that is done, Pleasant Street will be worked on.

Ms. Jane Hinkle asked when Pleasant Street will be worked on?

Mr. Fagnant said when the funding and grants are available, they will work on Pleasant Street.

Ms. Hinkle inquired whether the college provides any funding to the town.

Mr. Fagnant said the college does work with the town to ensure that streets on campus are taken care of.

Select Board member Mr. Bill Bolton said the college provides a payment in lieu of taxes. They have a renewable life safety agreement. They provide a base of \$400,000 and also contribute additional funding toward our police department for coverage of events.

Article 18 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 19 Highway Garage Building Maintenance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,000 for repairs to the Highway garage building and authorize the withdrawal of \$26,000 from the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. No funds to come from general taxation for this purpose. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$0/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded. No discussion.

Article 19 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Select Board member Mr. Zach Tirrell made a motion to restrict reconsideration of warrant articles 15-19 and seconded.

His motion was declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 20 Highway Dump Truck Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,000 for a Highway dump truck purchase and authorize the withdrawal of \$104,966 from the Highway Material Handling Equipment Capital Reserve Account created for that purpose. The balance of \$10,034 is to come from general taxation. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.02/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded. No discussion.

Article 20 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 21 Highway Backhoe Loader

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$176,000 for the purchase of a backhoe loader for the highway department and authorize the withdrawal of \$137,555 from the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Account created for that purpose. The balance of \$38,445 is to come from general taxation. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.08/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded. No discussion.

Article 21 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 22 Bartlett Road Phase 2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$225,000 for the purpose of improvements to Bartlett Road - Phase 2. (Majority Vote Required)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.45/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Ms. Aimee Lee questioned why the Highway Department reported that Bartlett Road is nearly finished when they are seeking funding to continue road work?

Highway Manager Mr. Joseph Fagnant says the warrant article will cover the road construction and pavement in the second phase of work on Bartlett Road.

Mr. Joseph Dube suggests they vote on a road and fix it every year. He does not believe the highway department gets enough funding to maintain roads.

Mr. Fagnant said last year the town elected to fund Bartlett Road and the funds only covered the first phase of this project.

Ms. Brooke Wakefield inquired about the fund surplus?

Town Manager Ms. Kathryn Lowe said the fund balance is used at the time of tax rate setting. The Department of Revenue Administration recommends that the town have a minimum of \$900k in that balance. The town currently has \$600k in the fund balance.

Article 22 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 23 PBTV Equipment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for purchases of PBTV equipment and authorize the withdrawal of \$5,009 from the PBTV Equipment Capital Reserve Account created for that purpose. The balance of \$4,991 is to come from general taxation. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.01/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Mr. Dave Moorhead asked what equipment this warrant article is funding for?

PBTV Manager Mr. Andrew Fenn said warrant article will cover the cost of broadcasting equipment used at board meetings.

Article 23 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 24 Capital Projects

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$164,000 for the purpose of funding the following capital projects for FY 22/23:

Landfill Monitoring \$10,000
Improve Road Construction \$125,000
Cemetery Tree Work \$9,000
Planning Board Capital Improvement Plan Update \$20,000

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.33/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Ms. Aimee Lee asked what landfill monitoring is and why this budget line increased?

Recycling Manager Mr. Jessie Jennings said the landfill monitoring increased due to an annual increase in cost. It includes well and gas testing.

Ms. Aimee Lee asked if it has to happen every year?

Mr. Jennings said it has to happen every year?

Mr. Philip Lamoreaux asked why it is not in the budget?

Town Manager Ms. Kathryn Lowe explained that capital reserve funds must be approved in the form of a warrant article.

Town Clerk Josie Ewing reminded the public to speak at the microphone.

Vote in the affirmative.

Article 24 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Select Board member Mr. Neil McIver made a motion to restrict reconsideration of warrant articles 20-24 and seconded.

Motion declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 25 Capital Machinery, Vehicles and Equipment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of funding the following capital items for FY 22/23:

Fire Department – Portable Radios \$30,000
Highway Department Equipment Replacement & Repairs \$20,000

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.10/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Ms. Aimee Lee asked what happened to the radios purchased last year?

Fire Chief Mr. Tom Morrison said this is the second phase to replace 30 portable radios. They replaced ten radios last year. They are up \$500 per radio.

Article 25 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 26 Capital Reserve Deposits

To see if the Town will vote to add to the existing Capital Reserve Fund under the provision of RSA 35:1 for the following purpose and raise and appropriate the respective sum totaling \$5,000 to be placed in said funds.

Conservation Commission Capital Reserve \$5,000

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.01/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded. No discussion.

Article 26 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 27 Establish Capital Reserve Fund for Infrastructure

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of the Town's matching share of grant money received for infrastructure and road projects and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in this fund and further to name the selectboard as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.10/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded. No discussion.

Article 27 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 28 Non-Profit & Health Agencies

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,586 for the purpose of funding for the following non-profit/health agencies: (Majority vote required)

Pemi Baker Home Health & Hospice \$15,570
Genesis-Lakes Region Mental Health Agency \$7,500
Transport Central \$1,000
Grafton County Senior Citizens \$15,570
Tri-County Community Action \$7,646
Voices Against Violence \$4,000
American Red Cross \$2,000
Pemi Youth Center \$8,000
CADY - Communities for Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth \$8,300
CASA - Court Appt Child Advocates \$1,000
Pemi Bridge House \$10,000

The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.

Estimated net tax impact for this warrant article - \$.16/\$1,000 in property valuation

Motion to move and seconded.

Ms. Aimee Lee inquired whether Pemi-Baker Home Health and Hospice was purchased by Mid-State Health Center?

Ms. Katie Hedberg stated Pemi-Baker has shifted their priorities to hospice care rather than rehabilitative services.

Mr. John Randlett made a motion to reduce all items by 50% because he does not believe non-profit organizations should request funding from towns.

Ms. Valerie Scarborough commented that the amount we provide is offset by the services these agencies provide in our town. Funding non-profit agencies will save the town money in other services.

Ms. Brooke Wakefield said the effect is minimal and does not support the motion. She inquired whether these requests go to other towns?

Select Board member Mr. Bill Bolton said they do go to other towns based on his experience as Executive Director of Transport Central. The majority of towns they apply to do not contribute, though they make use of these services.

Ms. Eileen Towne is the former Welfare Director. These agencies provide a great value with the funding towns provide them. She suggests that residents attend school meetings as the majority of the tax rate increased due to the school system.

Mr. Randlett said that he is on the Board of Directors of a non-profit agency. They get donations and have never asked the town for any funding.

Ms. Jessica Dutille spoke against the amendment in support of non-profit agencies in our community. Investing in non-profit agencies will save us money in the long-run. She serves as a member of the Executive Board at the Pemi-Youth Center. They

provide many services, all of which are free of charge including a free meal to children.

The amendment failed, returning to the original warrant article.

Motion to move and seconded.

Article 28 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 29 Solar Array - Transfer Station

To see if the Town would vote to offer direction to the Selectboard to (1) appoint the Plymouth Energy Commission (PEC) to launch a Request For Proposal (RFP) process to solar contractors for the construction of an approximate 140 kW grid-tied solar-electric array on town qualified property to offset municipal building power usage and (2) to allow the PEC to establish a capital campaign through loans, grants, and/or bonds as well as to obtain and accept federal, state, or other available aid for this project.

Motion to move and seconded.

Ms. Grace Garvey represents the Energy Commission and their job is to report to the Select Board about sustainable and sound energy opportunities and practices that would benefit the town of Plymouth. The Energy Commission's is seeking to invest in sustainable sources to decrease the town's reliance on non-renewable energy sources. This warrant article was developed to continue the work they started in 2015 to offset the power demands by municipal buildings. The Energy Commission would engage with solar contractors for proposals and then they would establish a location for solar arrays to be placed. Once they have determined a location, they would seek fiscally responsible ways to fund this project. They will work with the members of the Select Board, who will have the final say on whether the Energy Commission can proceed with a proposal. Grace believes this warrant article supports the resolution that recognizes the town as an ecotourism destination.

Ms. Marcia Blaine inquired whether the town still has time to apply for any federal funding, for example the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to fund renewable energy sources? She also asked whether the town has received any general funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or American Rescue Plan Act?

Ms. Maggie Mumford is also a member of the Energy Commission. She said they are pursuing funds from the rural energy pilot program through the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Chris Sanborn inquired whether the Energy Commission and Select Board would be looking at town property or properties approved by the town to place solar arrays on?

Ms. Mumford said their understanding is the town will have established a lease agreement to place solar arrays on town property upon a roof or a ground mount.

Mr. Mike Ahern opposes this warrant article. He served on the Select Board in 2015 and recalls that the proposals were not profitable. He has since researched solar arrays and says the materials are sourced from China. The method of exploding land is used to obtain the raw materials that compose solar arrays. He is also concerned that the use of solar arrays would be a short-term investment due to their short life-span.

Ms. Maggie Mumford made some corrections to Mr. Ahern's statements. She said that solar arrays have a life-span of 25 years. There are agencies that are repurposing solar arrays, for instance, converting use to charging electric vehicles.

Mr. Ahern reiterated his concerns about investing in solar arrays. He also expressed concern over the amounts of money that individuals, such as the Koch Brothers, make from the solar array industry.

Article 29 declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Select Board member Mr. Ted Wisniewski made a motion to restrict reconsideration of warrant articles 25-29 and seconded.

Motion declared as passed by Moderator Clay by unanimous vote.

Article 30 Other Business

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

**Motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Josie Girona Ewing