



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON**

TOWN MEETING WARRANT WITH MINUTES AND RESULTS

Moderator Bobbi Burns called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. Community attendance consisted of approximately 43 voters.

Select Board member Jim Maggiore led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator introduced the following.

Supervisors of the Checklist Jane Morse, Kevin Murphy, and Joanne Knox.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Susan Buchanan

Select Board Chair Jonathan Pinette, members James Sununu, and Jim Maggiore

Budget Committee Chair Rick Stanton, members Larry Miller, Tom von Jess, Lisa Gagalis, and Andrew Raucci.

Town Administrator Mike Tully

Finance Director Ryan Cornwell

Police Chief Robert LaBarge

Fire Chief Jason LaJoie

DPW Director John Hubbard

Planning and Zoning Administrator Rick Milner

She thanked John Savastano, Troy Klidaris and David O'Connor for broadcasting and Stu Spooner and company for room set up.

Rick Stanton opened a Budget Committee Meeting and Jonathan Pinette opened a Select Board Meeting.

The Moderator reviewed the purpose of the day's meeting, logistics, and rules.

To the inhabitants of the Town of North Hampton in Rockingham County, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

FIRST SESSION

You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to be held at the:

**North Hampton School,
201 Atlantic Avenue in North Hampton, New Hampshire,**

On Saturday, February 3rd, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by state law.

SECOND SESSION

You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First Session, to be held at the:

**North Hampton School,
201 Atlantic Avenue in North Hampton, New Hampshire,**

**On Tuesday, March 12th, 2024,
Polls open at 8:00 a.m. and close no earlier than 7:00 p.m.**

To act upon the following:

Article One: Election of Officers

To choose the following officers for the coming year:

Moderator noted open positions and individuals running for office.

1 Select Board Member, 3 year term		1 Budget Committee Member – 1 year term	
Brendan Fennell		Ann Marie Banfield	
Henry Marsh		Robert Benevento	
Jonathan Pinette		Andrew M. Raucci	
1 Town Moderator, 2 year term		1 Trustee of the Cemeteries – 3 year term	
Bobbi Burns		Frank Ferraro	

1 Town Treasurer, 3 year term			
Angela T. Blatus		2 Planning Board Members – 3 year term	
		Jennifer Kotzen	
1 Supervisor of the Checklist, 6 year term		Kirsten Larsen Schultz	
Kevin M. Murphy		Phil Wilson	
		Valerie Gamache	
1 Library Trustee, 3 year term			
Susan W. Leonardi		1 Planning Board Member – 1 year term	
		Oriana Allen	
2 Budget Committee Members, 3 year term		Katherine Raucci	
Jerry Gnazzo		John Sillay	
Janet Larsen			
Paul Martino		2 Water Commissioners – 3 year term	
Sean Dionne		Donna McCay	
1 Zoning Board of Adjustment Member – 3 year term		1 Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 year term	
Jonathan Howe		Tory Marsh	
		Mary Lambert	

Article Two: Amendment to Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 1 to the Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 401 Accessory Dwelling Unit. The intent of the proposed revision is to clarify the criteria for allowing an accessory dwelling unit in an antique barn that is connected to a primary dwelling while retaining the traditional New England style architecture of the structures.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.
Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

Yes: **No:** **Article 2**

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Phil Wilson explained the article.

Kirsten Larsen Schultz asked how many requests were presented in the last year where this change would have been applicable. Phil answered that there were none.

Seeing no additional questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 2 will appear on the official ballot as written.

Article Three: Amendment to Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 2 to the Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Sections 201.2.A, R-1 High Density District and 201.2.B, R-2 Medium Density District. The intent of the proposed revision is to clarify the intent of the zoning ordinance that only one residential structure is allowed on a lot in the R-1 High Density District and the R-2 Medium Density District.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.
Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Phil Wilson explained the article.

Kirsten Larsen Schultz asked how this would impact ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units.) Phil responded that it would not.

Seeing no additional questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 3 will appear on the official ballot as written.

Article Four: Amendment to Zoning Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment Number 3 to the Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To amend Section 104 Definitions and 202.4 Industrial-Business/Residential District Permitted Uses. The intent of the proposed revision is to clarify existing permitted use classifications within the Industrial-Business/Residential District and add definitions for permitted uses terms.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.
Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Phil Wilson explained the article.

Kirsten Larsen Schultz asked if this meant that new businesses would not need a change of use permit. Phil responded that additional business on the same site that are ancillary to the original business would not.

Frank Ferraro noted that he could not find the full texts of the amended zoning ordinances with the warrant on the website. Rick Milner offered that he had copies with him, that they are available at the Town Offices and on the website, but in the Planning Board section versus with the proposed warrant. The Moderator noted that they will be available at voting.

Seeing no additional questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 4 will appear on the official ballot as written.

Larry Miller moved to restrict Articles 2 through 4 for reconsideration, Rick Stanton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Five: FY 2025 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation 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 vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, Nine Million Six Hundred Forty-one Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-two Dollars (\$9,641,882)? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be Nine Million Four Hundred Ninety-two Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-three Dollars (\$9,492,223), 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 one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 9-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Michael Tully reviewed the budget in detail.

Kathleen Kilgore asked why the legal line was reduced. Ryan Cornwell explained that the cell tower had resulted in larger than average legal costs last year and it was agreed that fees should return to normal.

Janet Larsen asked what happens to the surplus from the recent re-evaluation. Ryan Cornwell explained that taxes are determined based on evaluations and total approved warrant article, resulting in no surplus.

Janet Larsen asked if MRI is contained in multiple line items. Ryan Cornwell responded yes, that they were used for assessing and personnel.

Kathy Kilgore asked what percentage employees pay for their health insurance. Mike Tully responded that police is 86%/14%, fire 88%/12%, and non union town employees 90%/10%. Mike Tully asked Kathy Kilgore, as Library Trustee if she knew the split for Library employees. She noted that it is 90%/10%.

Kathy Kilgore started to speak in regards to the Town Administrator salary. The moderator warned that any personnel discussion is not allowed at the Town Deliberative Session and that any discussion needs to be restricted to budget comments/questions. Kathy Kilgore then read from the New Castle website the hours for the Town Administrator

New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 211 which calls for the following increases in salaries, fringe and other cost items at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Total of Cost Items	Estimated Increase
2025	\$1,163,807	\$168,637

And further, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation the sum of One Hundred Sixty-eight Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-seven Dollars (\$168,637) for Fiscal Year 2025? Said sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries, fringe and other cost items required in the revised agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels under the existing agreement.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 8-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

James Sununu explained the article.

Seeing no questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 7 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 7, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Eight: Replace Fire & Rescue Forestry/Water Rescue Vehicle

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a forestry/water rescue vehicle for the Fire & Rescue Department to replace the temporarily repurposed former Department of Public Works vehicle with said funds to come from the Fire Department Equipment and Apparatus Special Revenue Fund? This item has been identified in the approved Capital Improvements Plan. Approval of this Article will have no effect on the tax rate.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 8-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Jim Maggiore explained the article.

Kirsten Larsen Schultz asked how many time North Hampton provided water rescue help to Rye and how many times Rye provided ladder help to North Hampton. Chief LaJoie said that he did not have all the numbers, but that North Hampton provided approximately

20 water rescues in the last year and that Rye's ladder truck was needed twice in the last week for chimney fires.

Seeing no further questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 8 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 8, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Nine: Purchase Mini-splits for the Highway Facility

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of purchasing and installing mini-splits at the Highway Department facility with said funds to come from the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund? Approval of this Article will have no effect on the tax rate.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 8-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Jonathan Pinette explained the article.

Seeing no questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 9 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 9, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Ten: Road Resurfacing

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the purpose of resurfacing and reconstructing approximately three miles of road, by withdrawing Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) from the previously established Municipal Transportation Improvement Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose, and raising through taxation the sum of Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$270,000)? This item has been identified in the approved Capital Improvements Plan.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-2

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Jim Maggiore explained the article.

Kirsten Larsen Schultz asked how much is in the Fund if this article doesn't pass. Jim Maggiore responded \$73,000.

Seeing no further questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 10 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 10, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Eleven: Replace DPW Mower

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation the sum of Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000) for the purpose of replacing the current 2012 mower for the Department of Public Works? This item has been identified in the approved Capital Improvements Plan.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 8-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Jonathan Pinette explained the article.

Seeing no questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 11 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 11, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Twelve: Contribution to the Earned Time Settlement Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for deposit into the Earned Time Settlement Capital Reserve Fund? The purpose of this fund is to buy out employees' earned time during anytime of the life of their career and limit the Town's unfunded accrued leave liability. The total liability for unfunded accrued leave is estimated to be \$417,625 of which \$198,899 may be payable prior to July 1, 2025. The balance in the Fund, as of December 31, 2023, is \$74,408.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-2

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

James Sununu explained the article.

Kirsten Larsen Schultz asked if there were limits to carry forward time. James provided clarification.

Seeing no further questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 12 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 12, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Thirteen: Contribution to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation the sum of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500) for deposit into the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund? The purpose of this fund is to allow for funding to comply with the State of New Hampshire's requirement to perform a property revaluation every five years. The balance in the Fund, as of December 31, 2023, is \$20,106.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-2

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Jonathan Pinette explained the article.

Seeing no questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 13 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 13, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Fourteen: Contribution to the EPA Stormwater Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for deposit into the EPA Stormwater Capital Reserve Fund? The purpose of this fund is for the implementation of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS-4) project required by an unfunded federal mandate of the Environmental Protection Agency to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed into local water bodies. The balance in the Fund, as of December 31, 2023, is \$28,874.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-2

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Jim Maggiore explained the article.

Seeing no questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 14 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 14, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Fifteen: Contribution to the Town Land Environmental Remediation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for deposit into the Town Land Environmental Remediation Capital Reserve Fund? The purpose of this fund is for environmental remediation to Town owned land and costs related thereto. The balance in the Fund, as of December 31, 2023, is \$21.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-1

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

James Sununu explained the article.

Seeing no questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 15 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 15, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Sixteen: Close the Town Building Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Town Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 2006 and amended in 2018 to plan and prepare for future Town building projects, including new buildings and renovations to existing buildings, not covered as part of routine maintenance? Said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's general fund. Approval of this article will have no effect on the tax rate.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Jonathan Pinette explained the article.

Seeing no questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 16 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 16, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Seventeen: Adopt the North Hampton Community Choice Aggregation Plan

To see if the Town of North Hampton will vote to adopt the North Hampton Community Choice Aggregation Plan which authorizes the Select Board to develop and implement a North Hampton Community Choice Aggregation Program as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E). This program would allow the Town to provide North Hampton residents and businesses access to competitive markets for supplies of electricity and related energy services.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

James Sununu explained the article.

Kirsten Larsen Schultz asked if the town will use the service. James replied yes.

Tim Failey asked if the town and residents would receive the same rate. James replied yes.

Jim Avallon asked if we are a big enough town that it can make a difference. James explained that the services is buying for multiple towns and therefore provides buying power.

Charlie Trearchis asked the cost. James replied 1/10th of 1 cent per kilowatt.

Seeing no further questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 17 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 17, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Eighteen: Modify Elderly Exemption from Property Tax

Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of North Hampton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$170,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$225,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$275,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,800 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$59,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$190,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

Majority Ballot Vote Required.

Recommended by the Select Board: 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee: 8-0

James Sununu moved the article to the floor, seconded by Jim Maggiore.

Jim Maggiore explained the article.

Lori Cotter asked if asset limitation of \$190,000 would increase. Jim responded that it would not and that what we can do is defined by NH statute. He noted that he is available to discuss ideas for legislative changes and bring forward in his role as State Representative.

Amy Failey asked about qualifications in regards to an individuals home. Jim explained that the value of the home is exempt.

Jim Maggiore encouraged residents to get their paperwork into the assessor and not wait until after the election.

Lori Cotter thanked the Select Board for bringing this article forward.

Seeing no further questions or comments, the Moderator noted that Article 18 will appear on the official ballot as written.

James Sununu moved to restrict reconsideration of Articles 18, Jim Maggiore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Article Nineteen: Any other business.

To see if the Town will transact any other business that may legally come before the Meeting.

Seeing no further business the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 10:04 am.

Given under our hands and seals this Twenty-ninth day of January, in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-four.

THE NORTH HAMPTON SELECT BOARD

Jonathan Pinette, Chair

James Sununu, Vice Chair

Jim Maggiore, Member

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

January 29, 2024

I do hereby certify that on the Twenty-ninth day of January 2024, an attested copy of the within warrant was posted at the North Hampton School, the place of meeting, and at the inside and outside boards at the Town Administrative Offices and the Town Clerk's Office and at the North Hampton Public Library, all being public places in the Town of North Hampton.

THE NORTH HAMPTON SELECT BOARD

Jonathan Pinette, Chair

James Sununu, Vice Chair

Jim Maggiore, Member