

Summary of Annual Town Meeting
Lancaster, New Hampshire
March 14, 2023

At 7:30 p.m. Moderator John L Riff, IV opened the Annual Meeting.

Moderator Riff introduced himself, Town Manager Benjamin-Gaetjens-Oleson and Selectmen Shane Beattie, Troy Merner and Leon Rideout. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the National Anthem played.

Town Manager Gaetjens-Oleson gave everyone in attendance a rundown of happenings over the last year and how things are going in town. He feels the town is doing very well and thriving. He stated evidence of that will be when the town is revalued this year. Much of the success comes from the residents. He also recognized the town employees and let the public know what a great asset they are to the town. He also thanked the Board of Selectmen for their support of him and thanked all the other board and committee members for their time and efforts.

Moderator Riff reviewed the ground rules. He reminded any non-residents if they wish to speak, they need to ask permission and be approved before speaking. He stated he will read the article and ask for a motion and a second. If there is a second, then he will open the floor to discussion. Comments will be kept to two minutes and everyone is to remain civil. Once discussion is over, then it will move to a vote.

Article 2 – Operating Budget – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Million One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$8,125,150.00) which represents the operating budget. Said sum does not include any other Warrant Articles.

Article 2 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed.

Motion made by Rob Christie and seconded by Roger Fontaine to amend the operating budget to \$7,704,101 which represents an increase of 6% over the previous year's budget.

Discussion followed.

Motion was moved and seconded to end the discussion regarding the amendment to article 2. Motion carried.

Moderator Riff called for a vote on the amendment to reduce the Operating Budget to Seven Million Seven Hundred Four Thousand One Hundred One Dollars (\$7,704,101.00) by show of voter cards. Motion failed.

Moderator Riff reread the article as originally presented. Article moved and seconded. No further discussion. Article 2 carried.

Article 3 – Appropriate to Cap Reserve Funds – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$165,000.00) to be added to the following Capital Reserve Fund accounts previously established for the purpose and in the amounts indicated:

Highway	\$55,000
Fire Department	\$50,000
Police	\$10,000
Library	\$10,000
Cemetery	\$10,000
Town Hall	\$10,000
Transfer Station	\$10,000

Colonel Town	\$10,000
Total	\$165,000

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

Article 3 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 3 carried.

Article 4 – Reimburse the Industrial Development Fund – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Fifty-Four Dollars (\$24,054.00) to be added to the Industrial Development Capital Reserve Fund previously established with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 4 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 4 carried.

Article 5 – Purchase New 10-wheel dump truck w/body & plow – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$253,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a new 10-wheel dump truck w/body and plow for the Highway Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 5 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 5 carried.

Article 6 – Purchase a New Backhoe – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a new backhoe for the Highway Department and to authorize the withdrawal and expenditure of said sum from the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 6 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 6 carried.

Article 7 – Town Revaluation – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) for the purpose of a Town-wide Revaluation and to authorize the withdrawal and expenditure of said sum from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 7 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 7 carried.

Article 8 – Purchase New Ambulance – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing of a new ambulance for the Fire/EMS Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 8 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 8 carried.

Article 9 – Purchase a New Cruiser – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$64,391.00) for the purpose of purchasing of a new police cruiser for the Police Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 9 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 9 carried.

Article 10 – Support the Lancaster Historical Society – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to assist the Lancaster Historical Society with the costs of the restoration of sills, joists, support columns and replace the bulkhead of the Wilder-Holton House Museum at 226 Main Street with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 10 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 10 carried.

Article 11 – Northern Human Services/White Mountain Mental Health – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$5,921.00) for the support of Northern Human Services/White Mountain Mental Health.

Article 11 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 11 carried.

Article 12 – Northern Gateway Chamber of Commerce – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Six Hundred Nine Dollars (\$1,609.00) for the support of the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Article 12 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 12 carried.

Article 13 – CASA – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of New Hampshire.

Article 13 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 13 carried.

Article 14 – American Red Cross – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (1,600.00) for the support of the American Red Cross.

Article 14 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 14 carried.

Article 15 – Tri County Community Action Program – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$8,045.00) for the support of the Tri-County Community Action programs to include Fuel & Electrical Assistance, Weatherization, Transportation, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Guardianship, RSVP, and Workforce programs.

Article 15 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 15 carried.

Article 16 – Center for New Beginnings – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to help support the Center for New Beginnings in Littleton, which provides counseling and mental health services to individuals throughout the North Country.

Article 16 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 16 failed.

Article 17 – North Country Home Health & Hospice – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$17,991.00) for the support of North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency.

Article 17 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 17 failed.

Article 18 – Androscoggin Valley Home Care – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) for the purpose of supporting the clients of Androscoggin Valley Home Care who live in Lancaster.

Article 18 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 18 failed.

Article 19 – Backpack program – Read by Moderator Riff.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,150.00) to assist with the cost of the North Country Weekend Backpack program.

Article 19 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 19 carried.

Article 20 – Soup Kitchen – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of the Lancaster Soup Kitchen. (Submitted by Petition) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

Article 20 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 20 carried.

Article 21 – Food Pantry – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the support of the Lancaster Food Pantry. (Submitted by Petition) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

Article 21 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 21 carried.

Article 22 – Mount Washington Regional Airport – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$1,653.00) for the Town's share of the operating budget for the Mt. Washington Regional Airport for the current fiscal year.

Article 22 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 22 carried.

Article 23 – Sale of Town Properties – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell certain Town owned properties shown on tax map P05, Lot 066-B1, buildings located at 44 Depot Street and tax map P05, Lot 064-B1 buildings, located at 50 Depot Street. Said properties to be sold by the Town on such terms and conditions as the Selectmen deem prudent with cost of survey and land transfer to be borne by purchaser.

Article 23 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 23 carried.

Article 24 – Readopt Optional Veterans Credit – Read by Moderator Riff.

Shall the town READOPT the OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$100? (Majority vote required)

Article 24 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 24 carried.

Article 25 – Readopt All Veterans Tax Credit – Read by Moderator Riff.

Shall the town READOPT the ALL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the optional veterans' tax credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28? (Majority vote required)

Article 25 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 25 carried.

Article 26 – Transact other business.

To transact other business that may legally come before this meeting.

There was no other business.

Motion made by Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson and seconded by Shane Beattie to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity Baker

Charity M. Baker
Town Clerk