



Town of Deerfield

Town Deliberative Session Minutes

February 1, 2020

Location

Deerfield Town Hall, 10 Church Street, Deerfield, New Hampshire 03037.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by the Moderator Dan Holdridge.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator asked all to rise. The Cub Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board of Selectmen Present

Andy Robertson, Chairman, Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Jeffrey Shute, Frederick J. McGarry, Cindy McHugh.

Others Present

Dan Holdridge, Moderator; Erik K. Gross, Assistant Moderator; Attorney Nathan C. Midolo; Kelly Roberts, Certified Town Clerk / Tax Collector; Kim Crotty, Deputy Town Clerk / Tax Collector; Gary Duquette, Chief of Police; Matt Fisher, Fire Chief; Joanna Waring, Supervisor of the Checklist; Frances Maureen Quin, Supervisor of the Checklist; Christina Pretorius, Supervisor of the Checklist; Bob Molloy of Molloy Sound; Deerfield Women's Club providing food and refreshments.

Purpose, Rules, & Decorum

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the SB 2 Deliberative Session of the Deerfield Town Meeting, as defined in NH RSA 652:16-f. You will act as a legislative body to determine the final form of the Warrant Articles that will be voted on at this location, at the March 10th Town Election. All the Articles, by law, MUST be placed on the ballot. Each member who wishes to vote in this meeting should have checked in with the Supervisors of the Checklist and should have received a voting card and a sheet of Yes/No Ballots. If you are a registered voter and have not checked in, please do so now. Are there any individuals present who are not registered voters of the Town of Deerfield? Though you are not permitted to vote, by Deerfield tradition you are permitted to participate in the debate. The rules for this meeting are as follows, and are updated as of 2020: Our meeting today is "for the transaction of all business other than voting by official ballot." The first session "shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each warrant article." Since Deerfield operates via Senate Bill #2 Town Meeting, all warrant articles, amended or if not amended, will automatically be placed on the ballot. There is no need for motions to place articles on the ballots, unless they are amended. Please note, all Zoning Articles are not open to amendment per NH RSA 675:3. Our business today is to consider each warrant article and, within the limits of the law, determine the details of those articles to be voted by official ballot at the March 10th Second Session. Amendments to articles are in order and will be voted at this meeting. However, at the conclusion of our deliberation on each article, we will not vote on passage of the warrant article. Instead, the chair will instruct the Town Clerk to place the article on the official ballot. New this year, to assist us with the understanding of the warrant articles being discussed, we have an LCD projector set up. The projector will have the original ballot on the wall to my left, for ease of following along and will be operated by our Deputy Town Clerk Kim Crotty. Mrs. Crotty will display the warrant article, and enter any proposed amendments, so everyone can see what is being proposed in front of them. In the event you want to make a motion for an amendment, please be sure to write down the amendment information on the slips provided, and once acknowledged by the chair, read your suggested amendment into the microphone. Then, kindly bring the written amendment information to Mrs. Crotty to be typed up, and shown on the screen. Our goal is for our legislative body here this morning to be efficiently on the same page, with

all information as discussed. The chair will read each article, then recognize a representative of the warrant article author to speak. Then the floor will be open to all. If you wish to address the meeting, please approach the microphone. The chair will recognize members at the microphones in turn.

Warrant

FIRST SESSION:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Deerfield, in the County of Rockingham, in said State qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall, 10 Church Street, on Saturday, the 1st day of February 2020 at 9:00 a.m. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the Warrant Articles numbered One (1) through Twenty-two (22). The Warrant Articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) Warrant Articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, and (b) Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion as amended.

SECOND SESSION:

The final ballot vote for warrant articles will take place at the Town Hall, 10 Church Street on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.
2. To vote on the following Warrant Articles, as amended, including the proposed budget as a result of the action of the First Session.

Article # 1

Shall the Town of Deerfield 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 \$4,300,001.00. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,960,253.00 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Deerfield or by law; or the governing

body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13X and XVI, to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-1-0

Estimated Tax Impact Proposed Budget \$7.34

Estimated Tax Impact Default Budget \$6.76

Herman Pretorius from the Municipal Budget Committee spoke in favor of the article. He explained some of the increases were as follows:

- ✓ Revaluation of properties will occur in 2020;
- ✓ Costs for FICA MEDI and personnel are up;
- ✓ The Building and Maintenance line is up mainly for the re-sealing and paving at the George B. White Building;
- ✓ There are increases in both the Police Department and Fire Department salaries;
- ✓ Library salaries are up due to personnel, and the addition of a new full-time Children's Librarian;
- ✓ The Emergency Management budget is up, however, this will be offset by a \$23,000 grant;
- ✓ The Transfer Station budget is up due to hauling costs, and lack of revenue from recyclables.

Amendment # 1 on Warrant Article # 1

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road, made the following amendment to the Full Time Fire/Rescue Employee budget line that was seconded by Amy Wiedmer, as follows:

"Amend Line 01-4220-04-110 from \$1.00 to \$0.00"

Discussion on Amendment:

Kevin Verville felt there was no reason to keep this line open, as the Fire Chief did not ask for it.

Zach Langlois spoke against the Amendment, as he feels that it should be left open in the event that it is needed.

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 1:

The nays have it, the amendment overwhelmingly fails.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Amendment # 2 on Warrant Article # 1

Joanne Bradbury of Thurston Pond Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by Zach Langlois, as follows:

“Replace the period at the end of the first sentence with a question mark (?)”

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 2:

The ayes have it, the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS AMENDED.

The amended article will appear on the ballot, as follows:

Article # 1 Shall the Town of Deerfield 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 \$4,300,001.00? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,960,253.00 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Deerfield or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13X and XVI, to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-1-0

Estimated Tax Impact Proposed Budget \$7.34

Estimated Tax Impact Default Budget \$6.76

Article # 2

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of repair and/or reconstruction of existing roads and associated drainage improvements? Shall the Town further authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any and all State Aid or other revenue source that may become available for this work. The funds will be used for the improvement, reconstruction,

maintenance, crack sealing, and engineering of roads. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation as per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2025.

Roadway Construction - Background: Road rehabilitation and reconstruction continues to be a challenge. In an effort to work towards a goal of improving overall road conditions within the Town, these funds will be utilized to systematically improve roads based on the results of the Road Service Management System Report completed by NH Southern Planning Commission and in consultation with the Road Agent. Road program priorities are generally guided by road condition, traffic volumes, and opportunities to coordinate road construction with other projects.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.34*

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor for the article. He explained that the Board wanted to have the voters decide.

Kevin Verville asked if there was anyone that was running for the Highway Agent position in attendance that would speak to this article.

John Cooper, who is running for Highway Agent, stated that he was in support of this warrant article as written.

Amendment # 1 on Warrant Article # 2

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road, made the following amendment that was seconded by Phil Bilodeau, as follows:

“Change amount from \$200,000 to \$100,000.”

Discussion on Amendment:

Kevin Verville explained that he has been trying to add \$100,000 to the highway budget for road maintenance for several years, and that it never passes. He supports adding money, but feels the \$200,000 is too much, and will fail at the voting booth.

There was a scattering of discussion both for and against the proposed amendment.

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 1:
The nays have it, the amendment overwhelmingly fails.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Amendment # 2 on Warrant Article # 2

Joanne Bradbury of Thurston Pond Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by Zach Langlois, as follows:

“Delete the Period (.) at the end of the second sentence, and insert a question mark (?)”

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 2:
The ayes have it, the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS AMENDED.

The amended article will appear on the ballot, as follows:

Article # 2 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of repair and/or reconstruction of existing roads and associated drainage improvements? Shall the Town further authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any and all State Aid or other revenue source that may become available for this work? The funds will be used for the improvement, reconstruction, maintenance, crack sealing, and engineering of roads. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation as per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2025.

Roadway Construction - Background: Road rehabilitation and reconstruction continues to be a challenge. In an effort to work towards a goal of improving overall road conditions within the Town, these funds will be utilized to systematically improve roads based on the results of the Road Service Management System Report completed by NH Southern Planning Commission and in consultation with the Road Agent. Road program priorities are generally

guided by road condition, traffic volumes, and opportunities to coordinate road construction with other projects.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.34

Article # 3

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$65,000 to be placed in the previously established Winter Road Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund said funds come from unassigned fund balance. The fund will have a cap of \$100,000 in principal. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0

[CURRENT FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/19: \$38,481.67]

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the article.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 4

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$63,800 for the cost of a 2020/2021 Chevrolet Tahoe Fire Department Command Vehicle. The price includes a 75,000/7-year warranty. The intent is to use the current command vehicle for a trade in.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-1-1
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.11

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the article. He further explained that while the Board of Selectmen were divided by their vote on this, they were all in agreement that a replacement vehicle was needed. They were not in agreement as to the type of vehicle.

Chief Matt Fisher spoke in favor of the article. He explained that the 2004 Chevy Tahoe needs to be replaced. He stated some of the issues with the vehicle are as follows:

- ✓ Lots of expensive repairs
- ✓ Vehicle failed State Inspection
- ✓ Vehicle has lots of rust

Herman Pretorius asked how much outfitting the new vehicle would cost? Chief Matt Fisher explained that usually outfitting a vehicle is about 1/3 of the total price.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 5

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,813.00 for the salary and benefits (FICA, MEDI, Heath, Dental, NHRS) of a full-time children's librarian at the Philbrick-James Library. The salary would be \$35,000.00.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.10

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in support of the article.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 6

To see if the town will vote to establish a Police Department Building Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of having engineering and architectural plans prepared for a new Police Department building, and for dissemination of information relative to the planning and design of such building; and to raise and appropriate up to \$50,000.00 to put in the fund; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-1-0

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the article. The current facilities of the Police Department are woefully inadequate, not up to legal standards, and a liability for the Town. Some of the major deficiencies of the current facility are as follows:

- ✓ Privacy issues (the interior walls do not go up to the ceiling. Private conversations can be heard throughout the space, and into the hallway near the Clerk's Office).
- ✓ The current facilities does not allow the separation of juvenile offenders from adult offenders (which is a violation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974).
- ✓ No private restroom (currently when someone is in custody and needs to use the bathroom they must be taken through a public hallway that is also shared with the Town Clerk's Office, Assessing Department, and Parks and Recreation Department).

Selectman Andrew Robertson explained that the Police Department Building Committee met several times last year, and they concluded that the best place to put the new Police Department is across the street from George B. White Building.

Police Chief Gary Duquette spoke in favor of the article. He explained that there is a desperate need for a new building. The current space is not safe or secure. He is unable to comply with federal laws regarding juveniles.

Mal Cameron stated it is time we all admit that our town desperately needs a new Police Department Building. He fully supports this article.

Kevin Verville stated he fully supports this article. He wanted to know if the proposed site would accommodate future additions for the Fire/Rescue Department?

Selectman Andrew Robertson answered Mr. Verville's questions by stating "yes" there is room to grow. He also noted that the proposed location would have the ability to have multiple access points: Raymond Rd, and Candia Rd.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 7

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000, to be placed in the previously established Fire Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.09

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the article.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00, which includes additional wages and required benefits, for the purpose of providing cost of living raises to Town employees in the amount of 2%.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-0-1
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.07

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the article.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 9

To see if the town will vote to establish a Fire Emergency Water Supply Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of maintenance and repair to existing water holes and cisterns with the intent to install future cisterns in needed areas should the funds exist; and to raise and appropriate \$32,000.00 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from the unassigned fund balance; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0

Amendment # 1 on Warrant Article # 9

Fire Chief Matt Fisher, of Griffin Road, made the following amendment, seconded by Zach Langlois, as follows:

“Vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000 to be placed in the previously established”

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 1:

The ayes have it, the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Amendment #2 on Warrant Article # 9

Nate Oxnard of Mt View Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by Zach Langlois, to remove the following wording from the article:

“further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 2:

The ayes have it, the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Amendment #3 on Warrant Article # 9

Nate Oxnard, of Mt View Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by Herman Pretorius, as follows:

“For the purpose of installing future cisterns.”

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 3:

The naves have it, the amendment overwhelmingly fails.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

**Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot
AS AMENDED.**

The amended article will appear on the ballot, as follows:

Article # 9 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000.00 to be placed in the previously established Fire Emergency Water Supply Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of maintenance and repair to existing water holes and cisterns with the intent to install future cisterns in needed areas should the funds exist, with this amount to come from the unassigned fund balance; No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0

Article # 10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of updating and amending the Town of Deerfield Master Plan in accordance with RSA 674:1-4 and 675:6.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-1-1

Estimated Tax Impact \$0.05

Selectman Fred McGarry spoke in favor of the warrant article. The current Master Plan is out of date, and was last approved in 2009.

**Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot
AS WRITTEN.**

Article # 11

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$25,000 to be placed in the previously established Municipal Government Buildings Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0

[CURRENT FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/19: \$29,432.02]

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the article.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 12

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in the previously established Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Expendable Trust Fund said fund to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-1-0

[CURRENT FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/19: \$43,939.24]

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the article.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 13

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,100, \$7,550 to be withdrawn from the Parks and Recreation revolving fund, with the remaining amount to come from taxes, to be used for Town field maintenance, playground mulching, playground fencing at Hartford Brook Field, and tree trimming in the area which holds Parks and Recreation activities outside the George B. White Building.

INFORMATION: Hartford Brook houses the newest playground in Deerfield and fencing is needed to ensure that children are kept safe at play. The playground was built via major donations from Deerfield Cooperative Preschool, Deerfield Parks and Recreation and volunteer labor. Similarly, tree trimming is needed to ensure children stay safe by minimizing the risk of falling limbs along the property line at the GBW Building. Costs of field maintenance in 2020 consist of infield mix material for two of our four ballfields with a full infield restoration performed by a professional on one of the fields. Playground mulching covers the cost of new bark mulch on at all three of Deerfield's playgrounds locations.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Selectman Jeff Shute spoke in favor of the article.

Amendment # 1 on Warrant Article # 13

Joanne Bradbury of Thurston Pond Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by Christine Pretorius, as follows:

“Insert the words “the sum of” before the phrase “\$7550 to be withdrawn”.”

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 1:

The ayes have it, the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS AMENDED.

The amended article will appear on the ballot, as follows:

Article # 13 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,100, the sum of \$7,550 to be withdrawn from the Parks and Recreation revolving fund, with the remaining amount to come from taxes, to be used for Town field maintenance, playground mulching, playground fencing at Hartford Brook Field, and tree trimming in the area which holds Parks and Recreation activities outside the George B. White Building.

INFORMATION: Hartford Brook houses the newest playground in Deerfield and fencing is needed to ensure that children are kept safe at play. The playground was built via major donations from Deerfield Cooperative Preschool, Deerfield Parks and Recreation and volunteer labor. Similarly, tree trimming is needed to ensure children stay safe by minimizing the risk of falling limbs along the property line at the GBW Building. Costs of field maintenance in 2020 consist of infield mix material for two of our four ballfields with a full infield restoration performed by a professional on one of the fields. Playground mulching covers the cost of new bark mulch on at all three of Deerfield’s playgrounds locations.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-1-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.03

Article # 14

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in the previously established Rescue Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02

[CURRENT FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/19: \$41,500.08]

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the article.

Fire Chief Matt Fisher spoke in favor or the article.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 to be used by Northwood Lake Watershed Association to control the Milfoil in Northwood Lake.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the warrant article.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 16

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be used by the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association to increase the number of hours for trained attendants to provide courtesy boat inspection at the public access ramp on Gulf Road to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic aquatic plants, like variable milfoil and aquatic nuisance animals like zebra mussels from entering Pleasant Lake.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01

Selectman Richard Pitman spoke in favor of the warrant article, and explained that the program has been working out well.

Andrea Hotaling of Lake View Lane, and member of the Pleasant Lake Association, spoke in favor of the article, and provided the following statistics from 2019:

- ✓ 3155 boats inspected;
- ✓ 8500 funds spent 2019
- ✓ 924 hours of paid attendant service.
- ✓ 741 hours of volunteer service.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 17

To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:35 allowing the maximum veterans' tax credit for service-connected total disability in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the warrant article, explaining that the Board was not aware that Town was not using the maximum allowable credit.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 18

To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28 allowing the maximum veterans' tax credit in the amount of \$750.00.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0-0

Selectman Andrew Robertson spoke in favor of the warrant article, explaining that the Board was not aware that Town was not using the maximum allowable credit.

Article # 19

To see if the Town will vote to urge the NH General Court to carry out the 2020 redistricting by the appointment of an independent commission chartered to map districts which are not intended to favor a particular political party and which minimize multi-seat districts.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the select board to the town of Deerfield's state legislators and governor of New Hampshire informing them of the instructions from their constituents with thirty [30] days of the vote. [sic]

(Petition Warrant Article)

Attorney Nathan C. Midolo, stated that this warrant article is advisory only.

John Dubiansky spoke in favor of this warrant article. He explained that presently there is a spattering of districts. This article would help eliminate party favoritism, and minimize multi-seat districts.

Kevin Verville, of McCarron Road, and New Hampshire State Representative, said the best way to effectuate change is to reach out to committee members and representatives directly.

Maureen Mann spoke in favor of the warrant article. She stated back in 2006 over 70% people voted in favor of having one representative per town. She explained that this would be the best possible representation for constituents to have with their representatives.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 20

We the undersigned believe changing the fee on use of the town hall by the Board of Selectman from \$0.00 to \$75.00 is too much for non-profit organizations. We suggest the fee should be no more than \$25.00. [sic]

(Petition Warrant Article)

Amendment # 1 on Warrant Article # 20

James Sullivan of Wild Turkey Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by Carol Levesque, as follows:

“To see if the Town will agree that the fee for the use of the Town Hall by Deerfield non-profit organizations will be zero dollars.”

Lynn Garland, of Nottingham Rd, spoke in favor of the amendment, stating there is a need for public meeting spaces. She would like to see the Town Hall building used more, not less, and that the \$75.00 is a barrier for people. She explained that there is a rich history of volunteerism in Deerfield, and the Town Hall should be a hub for the community. She went on to read a quote that one of her 4H students told her:

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections, but when you volunteer you vote everyday about the kind of community you want to live in.”

Selectman Andrew Robertson stated that the Board of Selectmen routinely waives fees for nonprofits.

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 1:

The ayes have it, the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Amendment # 2 on Warrant Article # 20

Amanda Sears, of Birch Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by Kevin Verville, as follows:

“Not for profit community entity.”

There was a scattering of discussion regarding this amendment changes the subject matter, making it invalid.

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 2:

The naves have it, the amendment overwhelmingly fails.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

There was a scattering of discussion on how to make the warrant article enforceable as opposed to advisory.

Amendment # 3 on Warrant Article # 20

James Sullivan, of Wild Turkey Rd, made the following amendmen0t, seconded by Kevin Verville, as follows:

“To see if the Town will agree that the fee for the use of the Town Hall by Deerfield non-profit organizations shall be zero dollars.”

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 3:

The naves have it, the amendment overwhelmingly fails.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS AMENDED.

The amended article will appear on the ballot, as follows:

Article # 20 To see if the Town will agree that the fee for the use of the Town Hall by Deerfield non-profit organizations will be zero dollars.

(Petition Warrant Article)

Article # 21

Per NH RSA 289.6 and NH RSA 30:130

Shall the Town of Deerfield delegate the duties and responsibilities for maintenance of the town cemeteries to the board of selectmen? [*sic*]

If the majority vote in the affirmative then the delegation shall take effect 90 days after adoption and shall continue until rescinded by vote of the town meeting.

Contractor line of the cemetery budget shall be deleted and that amount added to the appropriate line in the town general budget. [sic]

(Petition Warrant Article)

Maureen Mann, of Stage Rd, and a Trustee of Cemetery Commission, spoke in favor of this warrant article. She explained that by turning over the maintenance responsibilities to the Board of Selectmen, the contractor line would be moved to the general budget, allowing the trustees to focus on the cemeteries. The prior Superintendent of the cemeteries retired the end of 2018, and did the work with very little compensation. He performed a lot of work on his own, using his own equipment. There are no funds to hire a replacement, and the committee feels the best way to care for the cemeteries is to turn over the maintenance responsibilities to the Town.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS WRITTEN.

Article # 22

That the residents of the Town of Deerfield, NH adopt rules for towing in the Town of Deerfield, with these rules to include, but not be limited to:

- Any company towing for the town must have a storage yard located in Town, to avoid undue stress on car owners collecting their vehicles which have been towed.
- When a disabled vehicle blocks or partially blocks a road, the closest available tow company will be called instead of waiting for an alternate service such as an auto club, in order to reopen the roadway as quickly as possible.
- The Deerfield Police department will be responsible for any payments to the towing company if a Deerfield policeman orders the vehicle towed elsewhere than a Deerfield storage yard and the owner of the vehicle is unable to pay. [sic]

(Petition Warrant Article)

Attorney Nathan C. Midolo, stated that this warrant article is non-binding and advisory in nature. He noted that there are several legal concerns this warrant article raises.

Amendment # 1 on Warrant Article # 22

Matt Bourque, of Nottingham Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by James Sullivan, as follows:

“To read that the Board of Selectmen establish rules for towing of vehicles in Deerfield to include the following”

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 1:

The naves have it, the amendment overwhelmingly fails.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Amendment # 2 on Warrant Article # 22:

Joanne Bradbury of Thurston Pond Rd, made the following amendment, seconded by Herman Pretorius, as follows:

“Shall we express and advisory view that the Town’s towing policies and procedures be determined by the Police Department, as is the practice at the present time?”

Moderator Called for a Vote on Amendment # 2:

Seeing that the vote was close, the Moderator called for a secret ballot.

SECRET BALLOT A ON AMENDMENT # 2:

Moderator called the following Inspectors of Election forward to collect and count the secret ballot votes: Joan Bilodeau, Phil Bilodeau, and Cindy Tomilson.

Moderator read the results as follows:

YES = 47

NO - 23

The ayes have it, the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

Moderator Dan Holdridge instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot AS AMENDED.

The amended article will appear on the ballot, as follows:

Article # 22 Shall we express an advisory view that the Town's towing policies and procedures be determined by the Police Department, as is the practice at the present time?

(Petition Warrant Article)

Motion to Adjourn:

Erick Berglund, of Nottingham Rd, made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Dubiasnky. Meeting ended at 1:00 pm

Statistics:

91 voters checked in with the Supervisors of the Checklist to participate in the meeting.

Minutes transcribed and respectfully submitted by,



Kelly Roberts, Certified Town Clerk/Tax Collector

