



Town of Deerfield

Town Deliberative Session Minutes

February 4, 2023

Location

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.

Board of Selectmen Present

Frederick McGarry, Chairman, Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman, Cindy McHugh, Alden Dill, William Huebner.

Others Present

Dan Holdridge, Moderator, Dwight Barnes, Assistant Moderator, Kelly Roberts, Certified Town Clerk / Tax Collector, John Harrington, Jr., Town Administrator, Nathan Midolo, Town Counsel, Matt Fisher, Fire Chief, Joanna Waring, Supervisor of the Checklist, Frances Maureen Quinn, Supervisor of the Checklist, Christina Pretorius, Supervisor of the Checklist, Bob Molloy of Molloy Sound. The Deerfield's Women's Club was also present selling coffee and baked goods.

Rules of Meeting

Purpose, Rules, & Decorum Read by the Moderator

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the SB 2 Deliberative Session of the 2023 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 8th 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. Without objection, we will continue this tradition today.

The rules for this meeting are as follows, and are updated as of 2022:

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 are 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 8th 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.

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 our Town Clerk, Ms. Kelly Roberts for recording of the minutes. Our goal is for our legislative body here this morning to be efficiently on the same page, with all the 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.

When it is your turn to speak, please step up to the microphone and speak directly into it. The microphone is voice activated, and your remarks are recorded so that the clerk may make an accurate record of this meeting.

All remarks must be confined to the merits of the pending question, or to questions of order or privilege, and all remarks must be addressed to the chair. When recognized, please state your name and address to begin addressing the chair. Each speaker, if not the author of a warrant article who is presenting the article's information, will be allowed three minutes to express his or her views. You may speak as many times as you wish, but all members who wish to speak will have a first turn before any has a second turn. The overriding principle in all cases is fairness.

A speaker may address the current pending question, or they may move to close debate, but may not do so in the same turn. This means that if a speaker argues for or against a motion, he or she may not then conclude their remarks with "and I move the previous question." We adopted this rule many years ago, and with the support of the assembly, will follow it in this meeting.

A secret ballot, per RSA 40:4-a, must be conducted when requested by five members in writing prior to a hand vote. Such request must be for a specific vote, not for "all votes in this meeting" or "all amendments to this article." The five members must be present and stand when called to verify they are in attendance. The secret ballot provision exists to offer secrecy and is not intended to be used as a tactic of delay. If you wish to request a secret ballot, please approach a microphone, and when recognized, make the request. Then pass the written request to the moderator. Secret Ballot Forms are available on side tables to where you are seated.

Otherwise, votes will be by a show of voting cards. If the Chair cannot judge a clear majority, he will move to a Division. Likewise, if a member is not satisfied that the result announced by the Chair is correct, they should request a Division. Division will be a count of the raised hands.

Seven members who question any non-ballot vote immediately after it is announced, may request a written ballot vote. If the margin of a vote by Division is narrow, the moderator may also move to a ballot vote.

Five voters may request a recount of a written ballot vote, "providing that the vote margin is not more than 10% of the total votes cast". In this case, "the recount shall take place immediately following the public announcement" of that vote, per RSA 40:4-a.

If there is something you wish to accomplish here but you are uncertain how to proceed, please ask. You can do that at any time during the meeting at the microphone, or you can approach any of us during a recess. Similarly, if during the meeting, something is not clear to you, please rise to a point of inquiry – using the microphone and addressing the Chair, then ask for an explanation.

As a legislature, we will be discussing the Warrant Articles before us. Those discussions will be respectful of everyone's opinion. We do not cheer nor applaud when someone says something you agree with, and we do not boo nor groan when we disagree with what is said. Please be

respectful of all comments and opinions as you would want yours to be respected. To keep personalities out of the debate, please use terms such as “the previous speaker”, the selectman, or the Budget Committee Member. All questions and comments are to be directed to the Moderator. There is no requirement that anyone must yield to answer a question poised to them.

Finally, the role of the Moderator is to fairly organize and regulate the meeting according to rules agreeable to the Legislative Body in attendance. Rulings of the Moderator are subject to appeal by any member. An appeal must be made immediately following the ruling. A second is required. The ruling and the appeal will be explained to the Legislative Body. Then the members will vote either to sustain or to reverse the ruling.

We may take a break after lengthy articles; however, our goal is to conduct business efficiently for the respect of your valuable time here today. Also, this meeting is being recorded for viewing at a later date to be posted on the Town web site.

Thank you for being a part of today’s Deliberative Session and participating to help Deerfield become a bright future for generations to come. We hope to see you all again for the February 11th School Deliberative Session next Saturday, held in the School Gymnasium, starting at 9 AM. Also, please join us from 7 AM to 7 PM on March 14th for the Town Election, to be held here in at the old Town Hall.

We will now move onto Warrant Article #1, the Operating Budget for the Town of Deerfield.

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 4th day of February 2023 at 9:00 a.m. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the Warrant Articles numbered One (1) through Twenty-three (23). 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, Tuesday, March 14, 2023. 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 see if the Town will vote to adopt amendments to the existing Town Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board. (The amendments as proposed by the Planning Board are available for inspection at the Offices of the Town Clerk and the Selectmen during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mondays and from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.)

Zoning Amendment # 1:

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment No. 1, as proposed by petition for the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To see if the town will vote to amend Zoning Ordinance – Section 204 District Objectives and Land Use Control – to increase the “Minimum Lot Size Area Per Dwelling Unit in Acres” from 3 acres to 5 acres? [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

Not Recommended by the Planning Board 5-0-0

Petitioner of the proposed zoning amendment was not present to speak on its behalf. The Moderator opened the article for discussion purposes only, clarifying that a zoning amendment could not be amended or modified. William Huebner noted the recommendation on this zoning article was confusing and could lead people to believe that the Planning Board were in favor of the article, when in fact they are not. Several people spoke against the article.

3. 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 **\$4,813,543.00**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$4,267,422.00** 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 9-1-0
Estimated Tax Impact Proposed Budget \$6.20
Estimated Tax Impact Default Budget \$5.50

Moderator introduced Terry Roy, Chairman of the Municipal Budget Committee to speak to the article. Mr. Roy spoke in favor of the article, detailing some of the changes the Municipal Budget Committee made to the Selectboard's proposed budget as follows:

- ✓ Municipal Budget Committee added \$4146.00 to the Town Administration Part Time line.
- ✓ Municipal Budget Committee added \$4992.00 to the Government Buildings Part Time Employee line.

Mr. Roy stated the proposed budget is up approximately 14% from the previous operating budget. He stated significant increases in the budget can be found in the following areas:

- ✓ Executive Budget is up an additional \$37,000.00.
 - ✓ Financial Administration Budget is up an additional \$15,000.00.
 - ✓ Personnel Administration Budget is up an additional \$11,000.00.
 - ✓ General Government Buildings Budget is up an additional \$50,000.00.
 - ✓ Cemetery Budget is up an additional \$35,000.00.
 - ✓ Police Department Budget is up and additional \$87,000.00.
 - ✓ The Highway Department Budget is up an additional \$216,000.00.
 - ✓ Solid Waste Disposal Budget is up an additional \$60,000.00.
 - ✓ Parks and Recreation Department Budget is up an additional \$35,000.00.
- **Total Proposed Budget Increase is \$546,000.00**

Mr. Roy stated that the Municipal Budget Committee supported the proposed budget 9 to 1.

Selectboard Member William Huebner spoke to proposed budget stating that it was developed with the cooperation of the various department heads. He explained that the Town has been in a default budget for almost a decade, noting the one time it passed during that period was when the proposed budget was lower than the default budget. He recognized the voter's desire to prefer the lower budget, but feels it is now time for the community to pass a budget to address areas that need attention. He explained that the roads and Highway Department would benefit from the passage of a budget, and that the Board of Selectmen as a whole support the Proposed Budget.

Kevin Verville, Municipal Budget Committee Member, spoke against the article explaining he was the lone dissenting vote. The issue he has with the Proposed Budget is that it is a 14% increase. He stated that this is the sixth year in a row where there has been a double-digit increase proposed, and that it doesn't pass at the ballot box. While he agreed with the Selectmen there are areas that need improvements like the Highway Department and the roads, he believes the areas will only be approved by stand-alone warrant articles. He stated that stand alone warrant articles with specific priorities tend to pass at the ballot box. He stated that he feels this budget is general inflation across every line, and while he understands that inflation is a current issue, he feels it is also an important issue for families that are struggling to pay their bills and put food on their tables. He encouraged people to vote no against this article in March. He also encouraged the Board of Selectmen to make spending priorities stand-alone warrant articles.

Andrea Hotaling of Lake View Lane questioned both the Health Insurance and Retirement lines of the operating budget. She wanted to know why these lines were not being budgeted very specifically to their actual costs, to help keep the budget as low as possible and to prevent the widening disparity. She noted the past actual expenditures of these lines came in significantly under budget and feels we can calculate a more accurate figure.

Selectman Alden Dill spoke to Mrs. Hotaling's question stating that the budget needs to reflect the possibility of all entitled employees will take health insurance. He gave an example of the prior Highway Agent took health insurance, while our current Highway Agent does not take the health insurance benefit. He says it's an unknown, but we have to budget as if all employees are going to take health insurance and retirement benefits. He explained it would be very irresponsible not to budget those lines in that way.

Andrea Hotaling responded to Selectman Dill by stating there are lines in the default budget that have some slack, and she feels those lines should be considered for lowering so that the proposed budget is not so high. She feels that the proposed budget will likely fail.

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road stated he had a point of order. He stated that it was grossly inappropriate and potentially illegal for people to be stating who does and does not take certain benefits from the town. He cautioned people not to make comments quite that specific.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 2

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars **(\$350,000.00)** 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, engineering of roads and tree removals as needed. 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 10-0-0*

Estimated Tax Impact \$0.45

Moderator introduced Selectboard Chairman Frederick McGarry to speak to the article. Mr. McGarry spoke in favor of the article, making the following points:

- ✓ Roadway reconstruction continues to be a challenge for the Board.
- ✓ The town has over 55 miles of class 5 roadways that include both paved and gravel roads.
- ✓ The funds proposed in this article will be used to systematically improve these roads based on the Roads Service Management System Report completed by the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, and with consultation with the Road Agent.
- ✓ Road priorities are generally based on road conditions, traffic volume, and opportunities to coordinate construction with other projects.
- ✓ A similar article was passed in 2022, and those funds were used to reconstruct and pave a portion of South Road, repave Birch Road, as well as a portion of Middle Road.

Pete Schibbelhute, Highway Agent, spoke in favor of the article. He stated that the money from this warrant article would go towards the repair of existing roads. He noted that he would like to repair the roads correctly to prevent the continual repairs that resurface because of poor ditching. He explained all that is happening now is band aiding problems and not really fixing the issues.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 3

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars **(\$250,000)** for the purpose of providing general support by way of maintenance and repair of equipment, purchasing of supplies and overall operational support to the Highway Department for road upkeep and repair. These funds will not be used for personnel support. Should this article pass, it would only be funded in the event that the 2023 Operating Budget fails to pass. This funding will be effective January 1, 2023.

INFORMATION: *The department is seeking to repair or possibly replace, if needed, the existing vehicles and equipment that are nearing or past their service life. The department will also upgrade existing equipment, if needed, to provide reliable tools for personnel to perform their jobs in a safe and efficient manner.*

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.32*

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member William Huebner to speak to the article. He stated that there are all kinds of vehicle and building needs that need to be addressed. He explained

that this article is a safeguard to give the voters an opportunity to vote on this article should the budget fail. Should the budget pass as well as the warrant article, only the money from the budget would be used.

Pete Schibbelhute, Highway Agent, explained these funds would only be used to repair things that they already own, and would not be used for buying new equipment.

Selectman Huebner clarified that these funds would not be used specifically for personnel.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 4

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000) to be placed in the previously established Police Department Building Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of having engineering and architectural plans prepared for a new Police Department building; and for the dissemination of information relative to the planning and design of such building.

INFORMATION: The balance of the trust fund as of 9/30/2022 is \$34,474.05

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-3-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.15*

Moderator introduced Selectboard Chairman Frederick McGarry to speak to the article. He spoke in favor of the article explaining as follows:

- ✓ The funds proposed in this article would be used for the preparation of designs for a plan of a new police station.
- ✓ In 2021 the Board of Selectmen advertised for a design build team for the construction of a police department building.
- ✓ Two proposals were received, and the Board chose the team of Hutter Construction and Warrenstreet Architects for the project.
- ✓ They would work together with the town to finalize the site of the police station and preparing plans and specifications.
- ✓ These plans would then be used to develop construction costs. The estimate would then be put before the voters at a future town meeting.

Mr. McGarry explained why continuing to have the police department located in the George B. White Building was a liability risk. He noted that the Town's insurance company Primex did a risk assessment report back in 2015 that identified 12 deficiencies ranging from fire protection systems to prisoner processing and lack of juvenile facilities. He explained that some of the deficiencies place prisoners in conflict with the general public. He noted should an incident occur; it could open the town up to a lawsuit.

Harriet Cady of Old Centre Road spoke against the article, stating that the town needs a fire station as much as police station. She explained that she will not support a stand-alone police station.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twelve Thousand One-Hundred Ninety-five Dollars (**\$112,195.00**), which includes additional wages and required benefits, for the purpose of providing cost-of-living adjustment to Town employees in the amount of 5.0%.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.14

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member Alden Dill to speak to the article. Mr. Dill explained that they started the budget process back in August, and that the Town Administrator John Harrington had given them a few percentages to work with (2%, 5%, & 8%). He noted that the Board took some time to consider these percentages because they wanted to know what the social security percentage would be. The social security percentage was a little over 8%. The Board then decided to go with the 5% COLA increase. He said the Board's main goal is employee retention.

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road spoke in favor of the article stating that he strongly supports this warrant article. He stated that the 5% wont even keep up with the cost-of-living increase because of inflation.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 6

To see if the town will vote to establish a Highway Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of general vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair with the ability to purchase any vehicle or piece of equipment, should repair not be possible; and to raise and appropriate Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (**\$75,000.00**) to put in the fund; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The fund will have a cap at \$300,000.00 in principle.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.10

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member Alden Dill to speak to the article. He stated that changes in the Highway Department have brought to light some of the deficiencies we have there. He explained that the age of the equipment contributes to costly repairs. He noted that

the Town has not purchased a new highway truck in approximately 25-30 years. He feels it is time to set up a capital reserve fund to address these issues.

Highway Agent Pete Schibbelhute spoke in favor of the article. He gave some examples of repairs as follows:

- ✓ 2015 Ford F550 was just returned back from the Grappone that had a repair bill of over \$14,500.00. This truck has been out of service and will now be able to be used for snow storms. He also noted the age of other equipment as follows: 1986 grader; 1994 six-wheel dump truck; 2002 pickup truck; 2004 one-ton; 2010 six-wheel dump truck.

Mr. Schibbelhute noted that the employees are doing a good job keeping things running, but feels it is time to start planning for the potential repairs that may be needed in the future.

Harriet Cady of Old Centre Road stated that she would like to use ARPA funds to purchase equipment for the Highway Department. She stated that she feels the Highway Department is always last to receive money they need and thinks that is unfair given that everyone uses the roads.

Moderator clarified that the funding of the warrant article can not be changed. Attorney Midolo confirmed this.

Selectboard Chairman also clarified that they had a public hearing for the use and priorities of the ARPA funds, and they have not finalized or made decisions yet.

A scattering of discussion occurred against using ARPA funds for this article.

Ed Cross of Thurston Pond Road spoke in favor of the article, stating that the town needs the ability to spend instantly when we have a failed vehicle. This fund would allow the town to respond immediately should they need to.

Zach Langlois of South Road spoke in favor of the article. He stated that the town's inability to pass a budget is forcing the community to fund things in alternative ways. He feels that we need to look at how we are doing things because perpetual default budgets are not working.

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road stated that the town does spend money, and that stand-alone warrant articles tend to be supported by the voters. He explained that not only do stand-alone articles pass, but they do so with wide margins. He feels that the budgets fail because they have general inflation across all lines that do not express the spending priorities of the voters. He stated that the town has been spending hundreds of thousands of dollars extra a year by a stand-alone warrant article to repair our roads. He noted that we have increased that article by 75% this year and has every confidence that it will pass.

Moderator 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 Fifty-five Thousand Dollars **(\$55,000.00)** to build a 64-niche columbarium that could take the place of 128 traditional burial plots. The columbarium, construction, landscaping and installation cost is estimated at \$55,000.00. A garden-like setting would be created in part of the lower section of the Old Center Cemetery. The columbarium would eventually pay for itself with money generated from the sale of niches.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.07*

Moderator introduced Selectboard Alden Dill to speak to the article. Mr. Dill spoke in favor of the article, stating that it is a creative way to address future burial concerns.

Philip Bilodeau of the Cemetery Commission spoke in favor of the article. He noted that more people are being cremated as opposed to being buried, and constructing a columbarium would accommodate those needs, as well as conserve space. He explained that columbarium's are designed to hold cremated remains in niches with a small display for the names and decedent information. He stated that each niche would hold up to two cremated remains.

Selectman Dill noted that the town has a statutory obligation to provide space to bury people in town, and that we are running out of space. He feels this is a creative way to address that need.

Joanna Waring of South Road questioned if the sale funds would go into the general fund or the cemetery fund?

Selectman Dill responded by stating that the funds would go into the cemetery fund.

Bernie Cameron of Mountain View Road questioned the number of niches.

Mr. Bilodeau explained that the 64 niches could hold up to 128 remains and only take the place of about 10 traditional burial spots.

Moderator 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 Fifty Thousand Dollars **(\$50,000)**, to be placed in the previously established Fire Apparatus and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

INFORMATION: The balance of the trust fund as of 9/30/2022 is \$369,903.42.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.06

Moderator introduced Selectboard Chairman Frederick McGarry to speak to the article. Mr. McGarry stated while the fund balance appears to be high, in actuality it could cost well over \$800,000 to purchase a new fire truck. He deferred to the Fire Chief for further information.

Fire Chief Matt Fisher spoke in favor of the article. He stated that this fund was established in 2017. In 2022 the town was awarded a \$750,000.00 FEMA grant. The town is responsible for approximately 5% or \$34,000.00. This fund will be used for that purpose. He noted that the \$750,000.00 will not be enough for the purchase of a new fire truck and this fund will help make up the difference. He explained that this grant would replace two trucks for one, the 1980 and 1987 trucks. He also explained that there is other equipment and apparatus we need to continue to save for and replace.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 9

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Forty Thousand Dollars **(\$40,000)** 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 new taxation.

INFORMATION: The balance of the trust fund as of 9/30/2022 is \$25,231.03.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member William Huebner to speak to the article. Mr. Huebner spoke in favor of the article explaining that this fund has been used to maintain our buildings. This fund has been used heavily the past few years as we have been working with a very low budget.

Joanna Waring of South Road made a motion to amend the article to correct the name of the fund, seconded by Zach Langlois, to read as follows:

“To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Forty Thousand Dollars **(\$40,000)** to be placed in the previously established Municipal Government Buildings And Related Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from new taxation.”

Moderator called for a vote of the Amendment. The ayes have it, and the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Ed Cross of Thurston Pond Road wanted to know what the current fund balance was as of today's date. Town Administrator John Harrington stated that it was \$1341.49.

Seeing no further discussion, the Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as amended.

Article # 10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Thirty-five Thousand Dollars **(\$35,000)** to be placed in the previously established Cemetery General Maintenance Expendable Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from new taxation.

INFORMATION: The balance of the trust fund as of 9/30/2022 is \$32,283.35.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0*

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member Alden Dill to speak to the article. He spoke in favor of the article explaining that maintenance costs have increased drastically. He stated that we are overspending maintenance lines because we have not had a budget passed in so long. He explained this article is a method to help the Cemetery Commission keep up with the maintenance. He noted that mowing and cleaning contracts are increasing every year.

Philip Bilodeau of the Cemetery Commission spoke in favor of the article. He said that there are over 109 cemeteries. 29 of those are town-owned, and of those 29 only 6 are being maintained. He further explained that while there is currently a fund balance, the reason is that it is not easy to find people to do the actual work of maintaining the cemeteries.

Town Administrator John Harrington stated that as of December 31, 2022 the balance of the fund was \$29,640.00.

Harriet Cady of Old Centre Road, wanted clarification of how the fund balances were prioritized if multiple articles are being funded by that.

Town Administrator John Harrington clarified that all the articles that pass would be funded from the General Fund, and that there is no prioritization.

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road questioned Mr. Harrington's answer as he understood that the priority came from the numbering of the warrant articles. Mr. Harrington stated that he will look into the matter and get back to him.

Moderator 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 Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Recreational Facility Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of executing general town field/ court maintenance upkeep and to maintain existing playgrounds, athletic fields, athletic courts and the surrounding areas; and to raise and appropriate 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 new taxation.

INFORMATION: *The Town of Deerfield currently has three playgrounds, an outdoor basketball court, an outdoor tennis court, two baseball fields, two softball fields, and two soccer field locations which need routine attention to maintain safe playing surfaces/areas, visual appearance, and overall longevity. Town facility maintenance may include, but is not limited to, court resurfacing, mowing, tick spraying, herbicide treatment for baseball and softball infields, infield mix, playground mulching, and tree trimming as necessary. Historically, maintenance has been subsidized solely by the Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund. Due to the expansion of town facilities in recent years, the department is now seeking community support to help maintain its valued facilities, which are open to all Deerfield residents.*

INFORMATION: The balance of the trust fund as of 9/30/2022 is \$12,245.99.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0*

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member Alden Dill to speak to the article. Alden spoke in favor of the article explaining the maintenance costs continue to rise. He deferred to the Parks and Recreation Director for more information.

Parks and Recreation Director Erick Menard spoke in favor of the article. He explained that this fund will help with mowing, tree-trimming, and court resurfacing.

Joanna Waring of South Road made a motion to amend the article to correct the wording as follows, seconded by Kevin Verville, to read as follows:

"To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Recreational Facility Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of executing general town field/court maintenance

upkeep and to maintain existing playgrounds, athletic fields, athletic courts and the surrounding areas; with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from new taxation."

Moderator called for a vote of the Amendment. The ayes have it, and the amendment overwhelmingly passes.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Selectboard Member William Huebner noted that the Board did not unanimously support this article. He explained there was some discussions that the Parks and Recreation Department could raise some of their fees to help offset the costs before coming to the taxpayer.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as amended.

Article # 12

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars **(\$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 new taxation.

INFORMATION: The balance of the trust fund as of 9/30/2022 is \$49,599.31.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0*

Moderator introduced Selectboard Chairman Frederick McGarry to speak to the article. Mr. McGarry spoke in favor of the article stating that it would be used to repair vehicles and equipment for the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Matt Fisher spoke in favor of the article. He noted this fund has been well supported in the past. He explained this fund is for unanticipated repairs. He said that this fund has been used in the past for the following:

- ✓ Bodywork for 2004 Chevy rescue van for approximately \$7,000.00 so that it would pass inspection.
- ✓ Replaced a fire pump on the 2002 truck which cost approximately \$32,000.00.
- ✓ \$14,000.00 of motor work to the 2006 F550.

Moderator 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 Twenty Thousand Dollars **(\$20,000)** to be placed in the previously established Rescue Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

INFORMATION: The balance of the trust fund as of 9/30/2022 is \$60,113.89.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.03

Moderator introduced Selectboard Chairman Frederick McGarry to speak to the article. Mr. McGarry spoke in favor of the article explaining this article will be used for the purchase of a rescue vehicle.

Fire Chief Matt Fisher spoke in favor of the article. He stated that this fund has been well supported in the past, and the fund has been used to help offset the cost of the LUCAS device. He stated that it has been used for the purchase of a cardiac monitor which can cost upwards of \$30,000.00 - \$40,000.00.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars **(\$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 10-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member William Huebner to speak to the article. Mr. Huebner explained that some of our residents live on Northwood Lake. He also stated that Northwood Lake is very close to Pleasant Lake and that we need to protect and maintain them both. He noted that a significant part of our tax revenue comes from these areas. He stated that the Northwood Lake Association is battling milfoil in the lake. He said it is a shallow and warm lake that is susceptible to milfoil and bacteria. He said it is important to support this so that the milfoil does not spread to Pleasant Lake.

Erroll Rhodes of Church Street questioned the total cost of this project. Mr. Huebner answered by stating it is roughly in the \$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00 range.

Moderator 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 Twenty-Five Hundred Dollars **(\$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 10-0-0
Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01*

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member William Huebner to speak to the article. Mr. Huebner spoke in favor of the article and stated that this is a preventative measure, and that Pleasant Lake currently does not have milfoil. He explained that these funds are matched by the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association. He stated that he is the current president of this association. He explained the lake host program is where volunteers inspect the boats going into the water to make sure they are not carrying in milfoil. He it is a nice program that helps protect the lake and doesn't cost a lot to do.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 16

Shall the Town of Deerfield READOPT the OPTIONAL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$750.00? (Majority vote required).

INFORMATION: Statutory Change to Property Tax Credits for Veterans – Readoption Required

The New Hampshire Legislature passed, and Governor Sununu signed into law House Bill 1667 (Chapter 121, Laws of 2022), amending eligibility criteria for certain veterans' property tax credits. Effective on July 26, 2022, the bill amended RSA 72:28, the "Standard and Optional Veterans' Tax Credit," and RSA 72:28-b, the "All Veterans' Tax Credit," to expand the eligibility requirements of the veterans' tax credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces. Under RSA 72:27-a, IV amendments to tax credits and exemptions which require adoption will only apply "in a municipality which previously adopted the provision only after the municipality complies with the procedure" specified in RSA 72:27-a, II, unless otherwise expressly required by law. Nothing in HB 1667 created an exception to this readoption requirement. As a result of the passage of HB 1667, municipalities should consider the following:

- *For municipalities with an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit under RSA 72:28, II:*

The Optional Veteran's Tax Credit, at the existing amount or at a new amount, must be readopted pursuant to RSA 72:27-a to remain in place and include the expanded eligibility effective for the April 1, 2023 tax year.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Moderator introduced Selectboard Chairman Frederick McGarry to speak to the article. Mr. McGarry explained that last year the legislature passed an amendment to the statute to expand the credit to individuals who are currently serving in the armed forces and who have not yet been discharged. This would also re-establish the current credit of \$750.00.

Selectboard Member Alden Dill stated that warrant articles 16 and 17 are confusing to read, but they have to be worded as they are per the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration.

Harriet Cady of Old Centre Road wanted to know if people would have to re-apply for their credit.

Selectboard Member Alden Dill stated that people do not have to re-apply for the credit.

Mr. Huebner explained that if this article does not pass, people's credits would revert to \$50.00.

Mr. Verville stated that the Municipal Budget Committee supports this article. There was someone on the committee eligible for the credit who abstained as they felt that would be a conflict if they voted.

Ed Cross of Thurston Pond Road wanted to know if this is something that needed to be voted on every year.

Selectboard Member Alden Dill stated no we would not need to vote on this every year. We would only vote on it again if there was another change by the state again.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 17

Shall the Town of Deerfield 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 the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Deerfield under RSA 72:28? (Majority vote required)

INFORMATION: Statutory Change to Property Tax Credits for Veterans – Readoption Required

The New Hampshire Legislature passed, and Governor Sununu signed into law House Bill 1667 (Chapter 121, Laws of 2022), amending eligibility criteria for certain veterans' property tax

credits. Effective on July 26, 2022, the bill amended RSA 72:28, the "Standard and Optional Veterans' Tax Credit," and RSA 72:28-b, the "All Veterans' Tax Credit," to expand the eligibility requirements of the veterans' tax credit to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces. Under RSA 72:27-a, IV amendments to tax credits and exemptions which require adoption will only apply "in a municipality which previously adopted the provision only after the municipality complies with the procedure" specified in RSA 72:27-a, II, unless otherwise expressly required by law. Nothing in HB 1667 created an exception to this readoption requirement. As a result of the passage of HB 1667, municipalities should consider the following:

- *For municipalities with an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit under RSA 72:28, II:*
- *The Optional Veteran's Tax Credit, at the existing amount or at a new amount, must be readopted pursuant to RSA 72:27-a to remain in place and include the expanded eligibility effective for the April 1, 2023 tax year.*

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Moderator introduced Selectboard Chairman Frederick McGarry to speak to the article. Mr. McGarry spoke in favor of the article explaining that the wording is recommended by the Department of Revenue Administration.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 18

Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2), as adopted by the Town of Deerfield on March 8, 2005, so that the official ballot will no longer be used for voting on all questions, but only for the election of officers and certain other questions for which the official ballot is required by state law?" (A 3/5 majority of those voting is required.)

INFORMATION: Voting YES to this warrant article changes the Town from an "SB 2" form of voting back to a "Town Meeting" form of voting.

Moderator introduced Selectboard Member Alden Dill to speak to the article. Mr. Dill stated that the Board would like to present this question to the voters so that they can decide if they would like to go back to traditional town meeting. Mr. Dill stated the town had operated under traditional town meeting for a couple of hundred years.

Selectboard Member William Huebner stated that he strongly opposes this article. He feels that SB2 allows the most number of voters to make decisions.

Harriet Cady of Old Centre Road spoke in opposition to this article. She explained that she originally worked to have this law in the legislature. She remembers at some town meetings where there would be approximately 300 people in attendance, and that several people would

leave throughout the day leaving only about 100 people left in attendance voting for a population that was over 4000 people.

Bernie Cameron of Mountain View Road spoke in favor of this article. She argued that number of people who attend SB2 is low like town meetings were. She remembers many town meetings where her mind was changed about an issue she was against because she could listen to the reasons why things were being proposed.

Steve Barry of North Road spoke in favor of the article. He remembered his first town meeting and was happy to participate. He does not feel like SB2 is participating. He stated voters under SB2 are not informed. He believes town meeting is New Hampshire and actual participation in your town government.

Rebecca Hutchinson of Lang Road asked Selectman Huebner directly if he was here when we had town meeting. He responded that he was not. She stated that with town meeting you had informed activity and informed decisions. She doesn't feel it is useful to have folk voting on things of which they are not informed on.

Selectman Huebner stated that he feels that with SB2 we have the deliberative session which is very similar to town meeting where people can participate and become informed.

Rebecca Hutchinson of Lang Road stated the difference is that at town meeting you vote then and there and that you learn about things at a deeper level than you do with SB2.

Bobby-Ann Dostie of Brown Road spoke against the article stating that SB2 offers two opportunities for voters: the deliberative session and voting in March. She also said people become informed through mailers and researching the issues. She believes the reason for less participation these days has more to do with how life is now.

Tom Foulkes of Nottingham Road spoke in support of the article. He feels that the state of the town budget is almost in a state of disrepair because the issues can not be debated.

Kimberly Black of Meetinghouse Hill Road spoke to the article. She is not really sure how she feels about it. She made the suggestion that if SB2 were to continue to possibly not have a deliberative session so people vote right at the ballot box. She feels the split between the two sessions in SB2 divides the people.

Selectman Alden Dill stated that the Board of Selectmen will be having a public hearing on this matter on February 13, 2023.

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road spoke in opposition to the article. Being from New Hampshire he remembers town meeting, but prefers SB2. He stated that he believes returning to SB2 is voter disenfranchisement. He stated that that the deliberative session is town meeting and that this is where you can participate, ask questions, make motions. He explained that a lot of people

watch these meetings and feels that implying people are misinformed is disingenuous and insulting to the vast majority of voter. He noted that there is no absentee ballot for traditional town meeting. He noted that some people are not quick thinkers on the spot and need time to digest the information they receive at deliberative sessions. He urged people to vote against this article.

Ed Cross of Thurston Pond Road spoke against the article agreeing with what Mr. Verville had stated. He noted the extreme cold weather we are experiencing probably kept people from coming to this meeting but are home by their warm fires watching it being live streamed. He said a lot of younger people utilize technology to help them become informed. He also suggested that the town needs to work on how they present their budgets as maybe there is a better way. He stated that perhaps the budget is not failing because people are misinformed, but rather it is failing because more people are informed.

John Dukiansky spoke in favor of article. He said going to town meetings ignited his interest in serving this town. He stated that as someone who has experienced both town meetings and SB2, he feels that there is something lost in the disjointed system of SB2. He feels that going back to town meeting will help reengage people in the community.

Suzanne Steel of Harvey Road spoke in favor of the article. She agreed with John Dubiansky and feels that things get lost in the shuffle in the month between the deliberative session and voting day. She also stated that with technology maybe it will become possible for people to participate in town meeting remotely and voting as well.

Zach Langlois spoke in favor of the article. He stated that the beauty of this article is that it gives people the chance to vote on which one they want. He stated that what we are doing now is clearly not working.

Selectman Alden Dill recalled his experience growing up in New Hampshire and attending town meetings. He said it inspired him to get involved in town politics.

A scattering of discussion followed for and against the article.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 19

To see if the town will vote to instruct the selectmen to A) develop, or cause to be developed, within a period of nine months from the passage hereof, a Conflict of Interest ordinance (the **Ordinance**), consistent with RSA 31:39-a, defining and regulating conflicts of interest for local officers and employees, whether elected or appointed, to include, but not be limited to, conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof based on 1) direct or indirect pecuniary interest, whether

by personal, corporate, social or professional association, 2) kinship, whether by blood or marriage, 3) employment, whether as principal, agent or representative, 4) abutment, or 5) any combination of items 1) to 4) above, and also setting i) the terms and conditions for the disclosure of such conflicts, ii) the disqualifications based on such conflicts, and iii) the resolutions of such conflicts (including with respect to political solicitations), such that the public might have increased confidence that local officials and employees, whether elected or appointed, are placing the interests of the public at large ahead of their own interests, and B) include the Ordinance on the 2024 Town Warrant for adoption by the legislative body. (Majority vote required) [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

Moderator introduced the petitioner of the warrant article, Erroll Rhodes of Church Street to speak to the article.

Mr. Rhodes stated the purpose of the article is for elected and appointed officials to put the legislative's body interest first before their own.

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road asked the petitioner to give examples of types of conflicts of interests that are occurring.

Erroll Rhodes would not cite specific examples and stated that folks who pay attention in this town could figure out examples of when conflicts of interest occurred.

Jeanne Menard of Mountain Road questioned if the town currently has a guide or policy concerning this.

Selectman Huebner noted the town does have an employee policy and procedure handbook.

Kevin Verville read aloud NH RSA 31:39-a concerning conflict of interest ordinance as follows:

"The legislative body of a town or city may adopt an ordinance defining and regulating conflicts of interest for local officers and employees, whether elected or appointed. Any such ordinance may include provisions requiring disclosure of financial interests for specified officers and employees, establishing incompatibility of office requirements stricter than those specified by state law or establishing conditions under which prohibited conflicts of interest shall require removal from office. Any such ordinance shall include provisions to exempt affected officers and employees who are in office or employed at the time the ordinance is adopted for a period not to exceed one year from the date of adoption. The superior court shall have jurisdiction over any removal proceedings instituted under an ordinance adopted under this section."

Jeanne Menard of Mountain Road asked if we need an ordinance or a policy for conflict of interest, and which one would be better.

Erroll Rhodes, petitioner stated that an ordinance would set the guardrails and make it clear what is a conflict and what is not a conflict. He explained that an ordinance gives the Board of Selectmen the ability to enforce the law and could discourage costly lawsuits.

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road repeated the last sentence of the law "The superior court shall have jurisdiction over any removal proceedings instituted under an ordinance adopted under this section." Mr. Verville stated that the allegations that adopting this ordinance would help the community avoid costly legal proceedings doesn't seem to line up with the last sentence in the RSA. Mr. Verville stated that he feels this ordinance would guarantee lengthy and expensive legal proceedings.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 20

To see if the Town will vote for the future improvements of town maintained asphalt roads that are being resurfaced or newly installed to be constructed with center lane striping. At minimum; a single solid yellow line, for the purpose of lane delineation, in accordance with NH RSA 265:22. Improved line striping enables the authorities to more effectively pursue traffic violations regarding lane offenses in the interest of the safety of the community. [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

Moderator introduced the petitioner Kimberly Black to speak to the article. Ms. Black explained this warrant article comes from concerned citizens of the community who feel the roads are unsafe due to excessive speeding, passing, and distracted driving. She explained she grew up in this town, but is now scared for her kid's safety waiting for the bus. She stated that lines would increase visibility and help drivers. Ms. Black explained that should this article pass the Board of Selectmen are granted the powers set forth in NH RSA 265:22 to line stripe roadways when they are resurfaced or newly constructed.

Moderator noted that this article is advisory only.

Police Officer Lucas Bernier spoke in favor of this article stating that it would give officers the ability to enforce any illegal passing issues that occur.

Don Wyman spoke against the article and stated he had a concern about the width of the roads if there was a line, and that if two big trucks were passing, they would probably be in the ditch. He noted that unless the roads were widened, he doesn't think this would work.

Josh Freed of South Road stated that as a kid who grew up in the country, he was taught to drive down the middle of the road when nobody is coming because it is safer in the event animals run out in front of you. He stated he doesn't want to get pulled over for driving down the middle of the road.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 21

To see if the town will vote to deposit 100 percent of the revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax) in the conservation fund in accordance with RSA36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA79-A:25 II. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2023 and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting. [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

Moderator introduced petitioner Serita Frey to speak to the article. Mrs. Frey spoke in favor of the article stating that the intent is to return 100 percent of land use change tax to the conservation fund. She explained this fund is used to purchase conservation land, and is used to assist residents in town who would like to put their property under conservation easements.

Serita Frey made a motion to the petition article, seconded by Alden Dill, for the article to read as follows:

“To see if the town will vote to deposit 100 percent of the revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax) in the conservation fund in accordance with RSA36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA79-A:25 II. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2023 and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting. If the above article does not pass, the percentage of LUCT revenues deposited in the conversation fund shall remain at 50% as it is now. [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)”

Moderator called for a vote on the amendment. Ayes have it, amendment passes.

BACK TO MAIN ARTICLE

Haley Andreozzi of South Road spoke in favor of the article. She explained the purpose of the conservation fund is not to reduce the tax base in town, but to allow the conservation commission to conserve natural resources for the benefit of the residents of the town. She said this could include water resources, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreational areas and open space in general. She noted that there have been several studies over the last several decades that have shown that land conservation has a net benefit on the fiscal status of communities.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as amended.

Article # 22

To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Deerfield Select Board to work jointly with the Deerfield School Board on a solar energy project for the purpose of powering the school and the town buildings to reduce energy costs. [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

Moderator introduced petitioner Wes Golomb to speak to the article. Mr. Golomb stated this article would bring our community together for a common goal of cutting town expenses and saving tax payers money. He urged people to support this article and stated that if they find the

right site for this project it could serve as a revenue source for the town. He explained that this article has the potential to save money as opposed to spending it.

Ellen O'Donnell of Windy Ridge Road spoke in favor of this article stating that it was not only great for the town but also the students at Deerfield Community School.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Article # 23

Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for the contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property? [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

Moderator introduced petitioner Serita Frey to speak to the article. She explained that what this article does is give the town the flexibility to hold an executory interest in conservation easements. She stated that because the town has not yet adopted this warrant article, the town holds an executory interest in all easements which comes with responsibility and risks. This would allow the town to determine their executory interests on a case-by-case basis.

Kevin Verville of McCarron Road asked if the conservation commission would have to hold public hearings to expend funds. Mrs. Frey responded that yes, public hearings would still be required.

Serita Frey clarified to the body that the language used in this warrant article is statutory, noting this is the required language for the warrant article.

There was a scattering of discussion in support of the article.

Moderator instructed the Clerk to place the article on the ballot as written.

Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Statistics:

- ✓ 82 voters checked in.
- ✓ 3517 voters on the checklist.

Minutes transcribed and respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Roberts



Kelly Roberts, Certified Town Clerk/Tax Collector

