

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 principal.

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

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

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

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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*

Article # 15 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand 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*

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

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

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.

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)

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)

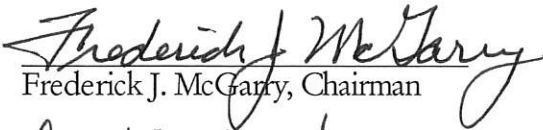
Article # 21 To see if the town will vote to deposit 100 percent of the revenues collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (the land use change tax) in the conservation fund in accordance with RSA36-A:5 III as authorized by RSA79-A:25 II. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2023 and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by future vote of the town meeting. [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

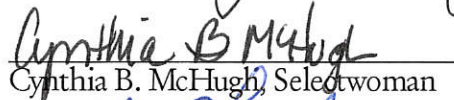
Article # 22 To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Deerfield Select Board to work jointly with the Deerfield School Board on a solar energy project for the purpose of powering the school and the town buildings to reduce energy costs. [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

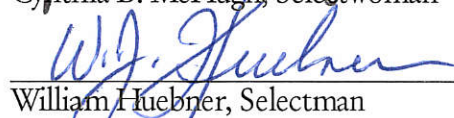
Article # 23 Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for the contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property? [Sic] (Petition Warrant Article)

Given our hands and seal this 18th day of January in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

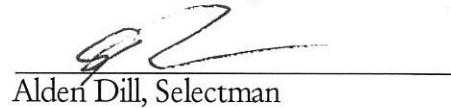
TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Frederick J. McGarry, Chairman


Cynthia B. McHugh, Selectwoman


William Huebner, Selectman


Richard W. Pitman, Vice Chairman

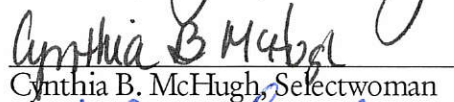

Alden Dill, Selectman



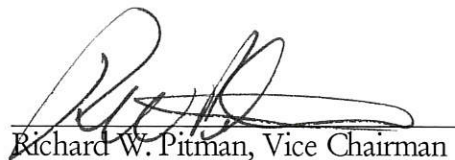
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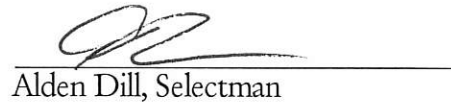
TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN


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Richard W. Pitman, Vice Chairman


Alden Dill, Selectman