



**AMHERST TOWN WARRANT
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 12, 2024**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Amherst in the County of Hillsborough and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of Amherst will be held in accordance with NH RSA 40:13. The first session, to transact all business other than voting, is on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Souhegan High School Auditorium. The second session, voting by official ballot at the polls, is on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Souhegan High School from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

ARTICLE 21: To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing terms as follows:

- 2 Selectmen for 3 Years**
- 1 Town Moderator for 2 Years**
- 1 Cemetery Trustee for 3 Years**
- 1 Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 Years**
- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment Members for 3 Years**
- 2 Planning Board Members for 3 Years**
- 2 Library Trustees for 3 Years**
- 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 Years**

ARTICLE 22: Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to 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 vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein, totaling **\$17,299,780**. Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be **\$16,471,990** which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant article. (Tax Impact = \$4.41) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-1.)

ARTICLE 23: Contingency Fund

Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year, in accordance with NH RSA Section 31:98-a, for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty thousand dollars (**\$120,000**) to go into the fund. Said sum shall come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Tax Impact = \$0.00) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0)

ARTICLE 24: Baboosic Lake Septic Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$104,200**, for operating and maintaining the Baboosic Lake Septic System for the ensuing year, said sum is to be offset by user fees. Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be **\$69,040**, which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law. (Tax Impact = \$0.00) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 25: Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (**\$40,000**) to be added to the Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.02) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 26: Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (**\$25,000**) to be added to the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.01) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 27: Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (**\$250,000**) to be added to the Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.10) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 28: Fire Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Purchase and Repair Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty-seven thousand dollars (**\$257,000**) to be added to the Fire Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Purchase and Repair Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.11) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 29: DPW Vehicles and Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty thousand dollars (**\$120,000**) to be added to the DPW Vehicles and Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.05) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 30: Amherst Multimodal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (**\$75,000**) to be added to the Amherst Multimodal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Tax Impact = \$0.03) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 31: Police Union Contract

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items in a three (3) year collective bargaining agreement (beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027) reached between the Board of Selectmen and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 3657 (Police Union) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
FY 2025	\$238,900
FY 2026	\$71,100
FY 2027	\$55,500

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of, two hundred thirty-eight thousand nine hundred dollars (\$238,900) for the First Year FY2025, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those paid at the current staffing level.

(Tax Impact: Year 1 \$0.09)

(Tax Impact: Year 2 \$0.03)

(Tax Impact: Year 3 \$0.02)

(Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 32: Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the town, if Article #31 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article #31 cost items only?

(This article has no tax impact.) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 33: Community Power

Shall the Town vote to adopt the Amherst Community Power Plan, which authorizes the Board of Selectmen to develop and implement Amherst Community Power as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E:7). The program would provide a new default electric supply and new renewable energy supply options for customers in the town of Amherst. There is no cost to the Town budget, and no obligation to participate. Customers can opt out at any time and return to utility default service. (No Tax impact) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 34: Stormwater Planning Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF Loan)

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) (gross budget) for the purpose of stormwater planning work relative to management of the municipal storm drain system in accordance with the 2017, NH Small MS4 General Permit ("the Project"), and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$100,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33, as amended); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the date, maturities, interest rate, and other details of such bonds or note: and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend any federal, state, or private funds that may become available in respect of the Project to reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes including but not limited to a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan. The Town anticipates that repayment of the CWSRF loan may include up to 100% principal forgiveness. (No Tax impact) (3/5 majority vote required).

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 35: Rail Trail Referendum

To see if the town is in favor, in the future, of raising and appropriating the total amount up to \$336,000 over three successive fiscal years (2026, 2027, and 2028) to serve as the required match for a New Hampshire Department of Transportation grant for a new rail trail two plus miles in length and extending from Walnut Hill Road to Baboosic Lake Road, with a spur to the Meeting Place Mall, with construction estimated to begin in 2027 and completion estimated in 2029. The NH DOT grant requires a 20% match from the Town; the NH DOT is offering to provide a grant in the amount of \$1.346M. If supported by the voters, the Board of Selectmen will enter into an agreement with NH DOT and will come back to the voters with a request for funding at a future town meeting. (Advisory only) (No Tax impact) (Majority vote required).

*(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)*

Given under our hands and seal this 22nd day of January 2024



Peter Lyon, Chairman



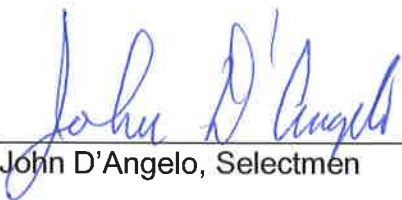
Danielle Pray, Vice-Chairman



William Stoughton, Clerk



Thomas Grella, Selectmen



John D'Angelo, Selectmen

