



**AMHERST TOWN WARRANT
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 9, 2021**

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 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Souhegan High School Auditorium. The second session, voting by official ballot at the polls, is on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 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 Treasurer for 3 Years**
- 1 Cemetery Trustee for 3 Years**
- 2 Library Trustees 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 1 Year**
- 2 Planning Board Members for 2 Years**
- 2 Planning Board Members for 3 Years**

ARTICLE 22: Open Space Acquisition Bond

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to purchase land and easements or other property interests within the Town of Amherst for conservation purposes, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue bonds or notes up to six million dollars (\$6,000,000) in compliance with provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended); provided, however, that notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Town shall not issue more than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) of bonds or notes in any one fiscal year; to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate and determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to take any other action they deem appropriate to effectuate the sale and/or issuance of said bonds or notes, however, no such bonds or notes shall be issued with a term of maturity of less than ten (10) years or more than twenty (20) years, furthermore, to authorize the Selectmen to acquire said property exercising their authority under RSA 41:14-a, and additionally to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (**\$160,000**) for the first year interest and costs. Land or property interests to be purchased with bond proceeds shall total not more than 800 acres and shall be acquired in the name of the Town as conservation land to be managed by the Conservation Commission pursuant to RSA 36-A:4, to protect and limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve and properly utilize open spaces and other land and water

areas. The authorization to borrow provided hereunder shall not lapse until June 30, 2026. (Tax Impact = \$0.09) (3/5 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 4-3-0.)

ARTICLE 23: 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 **\$14,877,676**. Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be **\$14,630,503**, 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 = \$5.44) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 4-1-0.)

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

ARTICLE 24: 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 undesignated 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 25: Communications Center 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 Communications Center 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 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: Service-Connected Total Disability Tax Credit

Shall the Town vote to increase the optional tax credit for Service-Connected Total Disability on residential property occupied by a service-connected totally disabled person or their surviving

spouse from \$3,200 to \$4,000 as permitted by RSA 72:35 I-a. (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 28: Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand **(\$200,000)** to be added to the Bridge Repair and Replacement 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: 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 = \$0.15) (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: Establish DPW Vehicles and Equipment Acquisition and Replacement CRF

Shall the Town vote to establish a DPW Vehicles and Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of acquisition and replacement of DPW vehicles and equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars **(\$120,000)** to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Tax Impact = \$0.07) (Majority vote required)

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 4-1-0.)

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 5-2-0.)

ARTICLE 31: Police Station Renovation Completion

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars **(\$200,000)** for the purpose of completing the 3rd floor of the Police Station renovation. Said sum shall come from the undesignated 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 32: Establish and fund CRF for Amherst Multimodal Facilities

Shall the Town vote to establish an Amherst Multimodal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of design and construction of projects and provide matching funds for grants for such projects, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars **(\$75,000)** to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Tax Impact = \$0.04) (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: Recreation Fields Acquisition and Construction CRF

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (**\$50,000**) to be added to the Recreation Fields Acquisition and Construction 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 34: New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting (By Petition)

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Amherst to see if the town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the town of Amherst to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

Furthermore, as the New Hampshire State Constitution, Part 2, Article 11 allows towns of sufficient population to have their own state representatives, not shared with other towns, for the town of Amherst to petition the NH General Court for its own exclusive seat(s) in the NH House of Representatives, ensuring that the State Representatives properly represent the town's interests.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to Amherst's state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote. (Tax Impact = \$0.00)

Given under our hands and seal this 20th day of January 2021




Peter Lyon, Chairman


Reed Panasiti, Clerk



John D'Angelo, Selectman



Dwight Brew, Vice Chairman



Thomas Grella, Selectman