

Budget Committee Town of Sandown, NH

Meeting Date: 1/10/2024

Meeting Location: Town Hall

Members Present: Chairman Leslie Kruithof; Vice Chair Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo; Amanda Knight, Ben Sharpe – ex-officio

Members Absent: Leif Aubrey

Also Present: Lynne Blaisdell, Gayle Hamel, Andrea Cairns

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Leslie thanked the committee for the service this year.

There were no minutes to review.

Public Hearing to review all 2024 proposed budgets and warrant articles.

Executive Budget - 4130-01

Motion by Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$392,541, revenue of \$2,350 and net expenses of \$390,191.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Town Clerk – 4140-02

Motion by Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$95,047, revenue of \$1,400,000 and net expenses of -\$1,304,953.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Elections Registrations – Supervisors – 4140-03

Gayle Hamel noted they needed to adjust the total by \$1.00.

Motion by Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$4,328, revenue of \$50 and net expenses of \$4,278.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Elections Registrations - Moderator – 4140-04

Motion by Steve Brown to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$30,127, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$30,127.

Seconded by: Dave Solomon

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Abstain: Amanda Knight

Motion passes 5-0-1

Finance – 4150-05

Motion by Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$104,550, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$104,550.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Assessing – 4150-06

Motion by Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$87,626, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$87,626.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Tax Collector – 4150-07

Motion by Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$85,090, revenue of \$65,000 and net expenses of \$20,090.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Treasurer – 4150-08

Motion by Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$4,545, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$4,545.

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Budget Committee – 4150-09

Motion by Steve Brown to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$1,271, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$1,271.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Benefits - 4155

Motion by Steve Brown to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$985,225, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$985,225.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Planning Board – 4191-11

Motion by Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$27,029, revenue of \$2,000 and net expenses of \$25,029.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Zoning Board of Adjustment – 4191-12

Motion by Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$2,928, revenue of \$2,000 and net expenses of \$928.

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Government Buildings - 4194

Motion by Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$104,395, revenue of \$1,000 and net expenses of \$103,395.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

Discussion: Dave Solomon questioned if there would be any money left over from town hall renovations to offset the building maintenance line. Lynne Blaisdell noted there may be, but they are in the middle of the renovations, and they don't know where the budget may fall. There are also other departments hoping to use the remaining money.

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Cemetery - 4195

Motion by Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$5,001, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$5,001.

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Insurance - 4196

Motion by Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$136,057, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$136,057.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Trustees of the Trust Fund - 4199

Motion by Steve Brown to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$567, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$567.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Police - 4210

Motion by Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$870,344, revenue of \$1,790 and net expenses of \$868,554.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Rescue - 4215

Jon Goldman noted that the lease payment for the power load stretcher was not included in the budget number, so they needed to add \$13,353 to the equipment maintenance line item. It will also need to be added to the default budget.

Motion by Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$254,832, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$254,832.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Assunta Ternullo

Opposed: Dave Solomon

Motion passes 5-1-0

Fire - 4220

Motion by Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$352,404, revenue of \$100 and net expenses of \$352,304.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Assunta Ternullo

Opposed: Dave Solomon

Motion passes 5-1-0

Building Inspection – 4241-20

Motion by Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$24,908, revenue of \$25,000 and net expenses of \$92.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Code Enforcement – 4241-21

Motion by Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$4,310, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$4,310.

Seconded by: Assunta Ternullo

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Plumbing Inspection – 4241-22

Motion by Steve Brown to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$30,128, revenue of \$15,000 and net expenses of \$15,128.

Seconded by: Dave Solomon

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Electrical Inspection – 4241-23

Motion by Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$16,700, revenue of \$14,000 and net expenses of \$2,700.

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Septic Inspection - 4242

Motion by Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$10,795, revenue of \$10,000 and net expenses of \$795.

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Highway Facility - 4311

Motion by Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$9,590, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$9,590.

200 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

201 **In Favor:** Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

202 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

203

204 **Highway Operating - 4312**

205 **Motion by** Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$1,160,336, revenue
206 of \$1 and net expenses of \$1,160,335.

207 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

208 **In Favor:** Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

209 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

210

211 **Street Lights - 4316**

212 **Motion by** Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$2,800, revenue of \$0
213 and net expenses of \$2,800.

214 **Seconded by:** Assunta Ternullo

215 **In Favor:** Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

216 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

217

218 **Sanitation Facility – 4321-28**

219 **Motion by** Steve Brown to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$10,400, revenue of \$0
220 and net expenses of \$10,400.

221 **Seconded by:** Ben Sharpe

222 **In Favor:** Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

223 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

224

225 **Sanitation Operating – 4321-29**

226 **Motion by** Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$500,923, revenue of
227 \$18,000 and net expenses of \$482,923.

228 **Seconded by:** Assunta Ternullo

229 **In Favor:** Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

230 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

231

232 **Sanitation Site - 4325**

233 **Motion by** Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$2,000, revenue of
234 \$0 and net expenses of \$2,000.

235 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

236 **In Favor:** Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

237 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

238

239 **Recycling - 4326**

240 **Motion by** Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$156,566, revenue of
241 \$15,000 and net expenses of \$141,566.

242 **Seconded by:** Leslie Kruithof

243 **In Favor:** Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

244 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

245

246 **Health Officer - 4411**

247 **Motion by** Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$5,322, revenue of
248 \$0 and net expenses of \$5,322.

249 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Health and Human Services - 4415

Motion by Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$19,393, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$19,393.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Community Assistance - 4445

Motion by Steve Brown to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$19,688, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$19,688.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo
Motion passes 6-0-0

Parks and Recreation – 4520-36

Motion by Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$112,387, revenue of \$1 and net expenses of \$112,386.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Assunta Ternullo

Opposed: Dave Solomon

Motion passes 5-1-0

Library - 4550

Motion by Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$361,733, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$361,733.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Abstain: Steve Brown

Motion passes 5-0-1

Patriotic Purposes - 4583

Motion by Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$250, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$250.

Seconded by: Assunta Ternullo

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Conservation Commission - 4619

Motion by Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$9,832, revenue of \$240 and net expenses of \$9,592.

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Debt Expense Principle - 4711

Motion by Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$45,000, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$45,000.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Debt Expense Interest - 4721

Motion by Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$6,446, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$6,446.

Seconded by: Steve Brown

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

TAN Note - 4723

Motion by Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$5,000, revenue of \$0 and net expenses of \$5,000.

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

In Favor: Ben Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Steve Brown, Dave Solomon, Assunta Ternullo

Motion passes 6-0-0

Warrant Articles

Warrant Article 2

Shall the Town 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 therein, totaling \$6,058,414 Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$5,858,042 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 articles. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$5.32 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Steve Brown

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

Discussion: Dave Solomon noted he would not be recommending the budget; he didn't recommend it last year either. He believes the town can operate on the default budget.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - no, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-0

Warrant Article 3

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Sandown Board of Selectmen and the Union representing the Police and Animal Control Officers, the Teamster Local 633 Union, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Contract Year	Estimated Increase
Year 1	\$49,510
Year 2	\$50,404
Year 3	\$40,519

and to further raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Ten Dollars (\$49,510)

for the current fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.04 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Ben Sharpe

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

Discussion: Assunta questioned if we knew what the tax impact would be for years 2 and 3. Lynne noted we didn't because we don't have the assessed value for the following years and that is how the tax impact is calculated.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Warrant Article 4

Shall the town, if WARRANT ARTICLE 3 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address WARRANT ARTICLE 3 cost items only? (Majority vote)

Motion to recommend by: Leslie Kruithof

Seconded by: Dave Solomon

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Warrant Article 5

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty Seven Thousand Fifty Seven Dollars (\$167,057) for the road improvement programs to be recommended by the Sandown Highway Department and approved by the Sandown Board of Selectmen, said sum expected to be supplied by the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grant. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$0

Motion to recommend by: Steve Brown

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

Discussion: Assunta questioned if the projects would still happen if the town didn't receive the money. Lynne noted that the state can adjust the amount they give to the town. They run on a fiscal year and the town receives this money in three payments. They can and have adjusted the final payment, but we have always received the money and the adjustments have been very minor.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Special Warrant Article 6

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Dollars (\$592,000) to be added to the previously established Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.52 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Dave Solomon

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

Discussion: Dave Solomon noted he would like to make this part of the budget vs. having a warrant article. Once it is part of the default budget, the town can move forward with the projects instead of waiting. If the money isn't spent, it would ideally go back to the taxpayers. Lynne noted by doing it as a warrant article, any unexpended money would be kept in the capital reserve fund and can only be used for

that purpose. She suggested putting the money for the engineering and bidding process into the budget so that portion of the project could begin sooner. Dave Solomon would like to explore that for the future.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Special Warrant Article 7

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) be added to the Plowing Expendable Trust Fund previously established with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$0 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Assunta Ternullo

Seconded by: Dave Solomon

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Special Warrant Article 8

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty Five Dollars (\$28,245) to be added to the Phillips Pond Expendable Trust Fund previously established with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$0 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Ben Sharpe

Seconded by: Steve Brown

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Special Warrant Article 9

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Fire Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.09 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Amanda Knight

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

Discussion: Assunta questioned what the money would be used for. Chief Devine noted they have used it to purchase apparatus (ambulance, fire truck). The current cost of a new fire truck is just shy of \$1,000,000. We have approximately \$300,000 in funds right now and they are trying to save for new equipment. The money can also be used for equipment repairs.

Steve Brown questioned the amount. Jon Goldman noted they did \$50,000 last year because they were adding staff and didn't want to add even more tax impact, but they want to try and get back on track. Steve Brown wanted to make a motion to reduce the line by \$50,000. Lynne Blaisdell noted they didn't have the authority to do so.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Special Warrant Article 10

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Five Dollars (\$45,000) to be added to the Stormwater Management Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.04 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Leslie Kruithof

Seconded by: Steve Brown

Discussion: Dave Solomon questioned what this was for. Lynne noted it was to cover the costs for the consultant to complete the work for the MS4 permit, which is a federally mandated program. She also added that this year we have a requirement to implement a BMP project to mitigate runoff at one of the identified locations. We don't have the specific costs to do this first BMP, but it is estimated to be around \$25,000. There will be additional projects that need to be completed that will be significantly more expensive to implement. Tom Tombarello added that if we don't comply, we will be fined, which is very costly.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Special Warrant Article 11

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.02 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Steve Brown

Seconded by: Dave Solomon

Discussion: Dave Solomon questioned if we were getting close to our goal. Lynne Blaisdell noted we are, which is why the amount is less than last year, but there are other bridges in town that will need repair so we should continue to put money aside for that purpose.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Special Warrant Article 12

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Thousand Dollars, (\$20,000) for the purpose of purchasing ballot counting devices. The ballot-counting devices must be certified for use in New Hampshire elections by the NH Ballot Law Commission. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until purchase of the ballot-counting devices is completed or by December 31, 2029, whichever is sooner. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.02 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Dave Solomon

Seconded by: Steve Brown

Discussion: Assunta questioned if there would still be an option to allow for hand counting if the new machines were purchased. Kevin Major, Town Moderator, explained that our current machines, while they served us well, are no longer going to be supported by the company that services them. He has participated in the testing process of the new machines. The new machines will scan ballots which will take longer to process, so he believes three machines would serve the town best.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - no, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-0

Special Warrant Article 13

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.01 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Assunta Ternullo

Seconded by: Dave Solomon

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Warrant Article 14

Shall the Town vote to adopt a longevity policy for Town employees which will provide on the employees' anniversary date annual awards ranging from \$500 to \$3,500 based on the employees' years of service, to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty Nine (\$34,249) for this purpose, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen at any time to revise the longevity policy as they deem necessary. This appropriation is the amount of the longevity bonus for all employees from January 1, 2024 until December 31, 2024. If this Article is approved, longevity bonuses shall remain as part of the operating and default budgets in future years. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.03 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Ben Sharpe

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

Discussion: Steve Brown questioned if this would affect vacation time for full time employees. Chief Gordan noted that current benefits wouldn't change. This is in addition and the purpose is retention. Finding employees is difficult and we want to find ways to keep them. We wanted to put it in front of voters to decide.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - no, Assunta Ternullo - no

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 4-2-0

Special Warrant Article 15

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Government Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.01 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Amanda Knight

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - yes, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0

Special Warrant Article 16

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to be added to the Old Home Day Celebration Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.01 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Leslie Kruithof

Seconded by: Steve Brown

Discussion: Amanda Knight noted that every year she votes no for this warrant article and the fireworks warrant article. She believes it is a great event if the taxpayers want it and have the chance to vote on it.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - abstained, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - no, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 4-1-1

Warrant Article 17

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) for fireworks with a date and time to be determined by the Board of Selectmen. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.01 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Steve Brown

Seconded by: Ben Sharpe

Discussion: Steve Brown questioned if it was a warrant article last year and if it passed. Lynne confirmed it was and it did pass. She added that the cost went up from \$4,500 to \$6,000.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - abstained, Leslie Kruithof - yes, Steve Brown - yes, Dave Solomon - no, Assunta Ternullo - yes

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 4-1-1

Petitioned Warrant Article 18

Shall the Town vote to prohibit door to door sales/solicitations. By voting yes, the town can enforce the practice of stopping door to door solicitations and will be approved to serve violators with fines payable to the Town. Violations will be subject to the laws of Trespassing with the first offense at \$50.00, the second offense at \$500.00 and the third offense up to \$1,000 and possible loss of their driver's license. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$0 per thousand.

Motion to recommend by: Dave Solomon

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

Discussion: Leslie Kruithof questioned if this would affect everyone, including girl scouts and sports teams. Lynne Blaisdell noted it would mean ALL door-to-door sales. She also informed the Board that they did consult with legal counsel and if this warrant article were to pass, it would be advisory only and not enforceable. A municipality can't take away the authority given by the State of NH, nor do they have the right to take away someone's driver's license. That would be handled by the Department of Safety. Steve Brown questioned if that information would be given at voting. Lynne noted they would talk about it at deliberative and put it in the voter's guide, but they must be cautious of electioneering. Chief Gordon added that parts of it could be put into effect (e.g., trespassing).

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - yes, Amanda Knight - abstained, Leslie Kruithof - no, Steve Brown - no, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - no

Article not recommended by the Budget Committee 2-3-1

Petitioned Warrant Article 19

Shall the Town vote to ban the use of voting machines in local, state and federal elections.

Motion to recommend by: Assunta Ternullo

Seconded by: Leslie Kruithof

Discussion: Dave Solomon noted he is the petitioner. He believes voter turnout last year was less than ideal and would like to see a normal voter population vote on the article to see what would happen. Leslie Kruithof added that her concern is that the cost associated with hand-counting has not been verified.

Kevin Major noted that last year they had 669 voters, 2022 there were 954 and 2021 there were 669. The turnout was average. He explained that for a typical election, over 50 items are voted on between the town, school and state. If 1,000 people turned out to vote, that would be 6,000 ballots to count. He doesn't

know how he would get the staff to count that many ballots. It could take up to 4-5 days and once counting starts, it cannot be stopped until it is finished. His staff is certified and trained. He would be against hand-counting.

Lynne Blaisdell added that they did get advice from legal counsel and this would be advisory only. The authority is the purview of the Board of Selectmen.

Roll call: Ben Sharpe - no, Amanda Knight - no, Leslie Kruithof - no, Steve Brown - no, Dave Solomon - yes, Assunta Ternullo - no

Article recommended by the Budget Committee 1-5-0

Gayle Hamel noted the estimated tax impact for warrant article 2 should be \$5.32.

Amanda Knight invited the public to the ballot machine testing on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 8:00am at the fire station.

Steve Brown added that every department did a great job on their budgets this year. His opinion has always been that the budget committee's job is to bring forward the best budget that will run the department not the least budget they can come up with.

Leslie Kruithof thanked her fellow budget committee members for their hard work.

Lynne Blaisdell noted that sign-ups for candidates will be January 24, 2024 through February 2, 2024 at the Town Clerk's office.

Dave Solomon made a motion to adjourn. Ben Sharpe seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Submitted By:

Andrea Cairns

Andrea Cairns

Assistant to the Town Administrator