

January 30, 2021

# DRAFT

**Town of Sandown  
P.O. Box 1756  
Sandown, NH 03873**

## **Deliberative Town Meeting Saturday, January 30, 2021**

**Town Officials Present:** Moderator Kevin Major, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Darren Hudgins, Vice Chairman Eric Olsen, Selectman Thomas Tombarello, Selectman Jonathan Goldman, Selectman Robert Nickerson, Town Counsel Attorney Diane Gorrow, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Dawn Nicolaisen, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Tanya Gaynor, Budget Committee Members: Chairman Steven Finnegan, Vice Chairman Chris Edris Suzanne Reynolds, Amanda Knight, Benjamin Sharpe, Stephen Brown, Administrator, Lynne Blaisdell, Finance Director Gayle Hamel, Supervisors of the Checklist Rosemarie Bruno, Diane Thompson and Heather Zagranis and Recording Secretary Paula Gulla.

State Representatives Chris True and Anthony Piemonte were present in the audience.

**Moderator Kevin Major** called the 2021 Town of Sandown Deliberative Session to order at 9:06 am on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at the Sandown North Elementary School 23 Stagecoach Drive, Sandown, New Hampshire. Ben Winter led the body in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**The Moderator** read the Rules of Order and pointed out handouts were available to all on the table. He also advised those in attendance they could check-in with the Supervisors of the Checklist to obtain their voting cards.

**Warrant Article 1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year (to be voted by ballot March 9, 2021).**

Voting will take place at the Town Hall and polls will be open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

**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 \$4,549,159 Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,413,414 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 \$6.76 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

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MOTION by Darren Hudgins to place Warrant Article 2 on the ballot  
SECOND by Steve Finnegan

William Blanchard spoke about the tax impact and that he wanted to add the tax impact of the default budget.

MOTION by William Blanchard to add a line – ‘If the article is defeated, the estimated tax impact would be...’ Mr. Blanchard did not have the new tax impact figure  
SECOND by Chris Edris

There was discussion on the default tax impact figure and it was determined the figure was \$6.55. There was further discussion on how the wording of the impact should be stated. Paula Gulla offered the wording that was used last year and stated it would read... ‘Estimated tax impact of the proposed operating budget of this article is \$6.76 per thousand. Estimated tax impact of the default budget of this article is \$6.55 per thousand.

Mr. Blanchard amended his MOTION to the new wording

Mr. Edris amended his SECOND

Chris Edris determined the difference in the tax impact between the proposed operating budget and the default budget was \$63 on a \$300,000 assessed home.

VOTE: MOTION PASSED

Warrant Article 2 will now read:

**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 \$4,549,159 Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,413,414 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 the proposed operating budget of this article is \$6.76 per thousand. Estimated tax impact of the default budget of this article is \$6.55 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Dave Solomon to reduce the budget by \$135,745 bringing the figure to \$4,413,414  
SECOND by State Representative Chris True

Sue Reynolds questioned the reasoning and asked where the additional funds would come from

A question arose as to what were the additional contractual agreements that raised this year’s default budget

Gayle Hamel stated they were mostly due to the collective bargaining agreement, the highway vehicle and trash removal contract.

VOTE: MOTION FAILED

Warrant Article 2 will be moved to the ballot as amended

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**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:**

| <b>Contract Year</b>  | <b>Estimated Increase</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>4/1/21-3/31/22</b> | <b>\$ 54,372</b>          |
| <b>4/1/22-3/31/23</b> | <b>\$ 15,252</b>          |
| <b>4/1/23-3/31/24</b> | <b>\$ 15,524</b>          |

**and to further raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Two Dollars (\$46,382) for the current fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021, 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 warrant article is \$.07 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to place Warrant Article 3 on the ballot  
SECOND by Darren Hudgins

Tom Tombarello - stated he and Jon Goldman negotiated the contract and he felt something needs to be done to keep our Police Officers here in Sandown. We are losing a 12 year veteran to another town because we are not paying our officers enough. This is a good contract and there are no issues other than the pay.

Chris True – asked about the increase in pay and asked what percent the pay increased each year  
Jon Goldman – did not have figures on hand, however, the first year is a higher percentage but stressed the importance of raising the pay because we have lost 3 significant officers recently and 2 of those left in the past 2 months.

Lynne Blaisdell – stated the percentages for the increase were just less than 15% for year 1, 8 % for year 2 and 3 % for year 3. The percentage increase includes all payroll items including holidays, taxes etc.

Tom Tombarello – we invest about \$30,000 in each officer and he thought for the future it may be wise to discuss an ordinance that would require an officer to stay in the town for a period of time or pay a penalty for early departure.

Jon Goldman – pointed out the pay increase does not go entirely to the officer since a percentage is going to taxes.

Warrant Article 3 will be moved to the ballot as written.

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**Warrant Article 4. Shall the Town of Sandown, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to place Warrant Article 4 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

Amanda Knight – questioned if only cost items could be addressed, does that restrict the governing body so they could not address the ordinance discussed earlier

Jon Goldman – stated, yes only cost items could be addressed and not policy

Atty Diane Gorrow – stated that although only the cost items would be voted on, a new contract could be discussed.

Point of Order – Chris Edris

Chris Edris asked if this would be an appropriate time to restrict reconsideration

The Moderator indicated that it would be an appropriate time

MOTION by Chris Edris to restrict reconsideration on warrant articles 2, 3 & 4

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

VOTE: MOTION PASSED

**Warrant Article 5. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six Dollars (\$162,576) 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 warrant article is \$0**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Eric Olsen to place Warrant Article 5 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

There was no discussion on Warrant Article 5

Warrant Article 5 will be moved to the ballot as written.

**Special Warrant Article 6. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000) to be added to the previously established Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.56 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

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MOTION by Eric Olsen to put Special Warrant Article 6 on the ballot  
SECOND by Darren Hudgins

There was no discussion on Special Warrant Article 6

Special Warrant Article 6 will be moved to the ballot as written.

**Special Warrant Article 7. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for site work and construction of a new salt shed at the Highway Garage. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2026, whichever is sooner. This article is designated as a special warrant article by the Board of Selectmen.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.22 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Bob Nickerson to place Special Warrant Article 7 on the ballot  
SECOND by Tom Tombarello

Darren Hudgins stated this article failed last year – if residents want to see the actual shed, we are hoping to purchase, the exact shed has been purchased by Hampstead and is on Stage Road.

Eric Olen – stated last year the article was on the ballot and was going to cost less due to State Aid received by the town. Last year the town only needed to fund \$30,000 however this year we are faced with the entire \$150,000 purchase price.

State Representative Anthony Piemonte – stated that the town received \$67,000 last year and was scheduled to receive another \$60,000 this year.

A discussion ensued regarding the difference in the fiscal years between the state and the town and the fact that the town received all the state aid money due to them already. There were no additional funds to be received in 2021 and that was clarified by Town Administrator, Lynne Blaisdell.

Dave Solomon - asked about the language extending the time frame to December 31, 2026

Darren Hudgins – explained that is language used in a special warrant article that allows additional time for a project in the event it is not completed in the first year.

Eric Olsen - stated this is required by our stormwater management program and we need to see this pass

Bob Nickerson – pointed out that it is a necessary project since the salt and sand can leak into the river if not properly stored and this would also keep the salt from solidifying

Tom Tombarello – also pointed out that this would allow us to purchase larger loads of salt and sand at a reduced bulk price. We have been fortunate in the past to have a local vendor deliver on demand but that option is no longer available to the town.

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Special Warrant Article 7 will be moved to the ballot as written.

**Special Warrant Article 8. Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be known as the Salt Shed Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of site work and construction of a new salt shed at the Highway Garage and to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in this fund, and to further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Should article 7 pass, this article becomes null and void.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.11 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Bob Nickerson to place Special Warrant Article 8 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

Lynne Blaisdell – stated this was an option to the voters if they did not want to purchase the shed all at once. This article allows the funds to be saved over several years.

Special Warrant Article 8 will be moved to the ballot as written.

MOTION by Steve Finnegan to restrict reconsideration on Articles 5 through 8

SECOND by Chris Edris

VOTE: MOTION PASSED

**Special Warrant Article 9. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.22 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to put Special Warrant Article 9 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

Tom Tombarello – noted the 3 bridges in town: Fremont, Phillips and Odell and stated there was a temporary fix on Phillips in 2017 that should last about 10 years. However, when that bridge needs to be done, it will be over a million dollars to complete. We have applied for State bridge aid and we are on the schedule for 2027. At that time, the town must have all the funds in place, foot the bill for the complete project and then the town will be reimbursed 80% of the cost. We need to catch up and be ready to have the million dollars for the project.

Special Warrant Article 9 will be moved to the ballot as written.

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**Special Warrant Article 10. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$13,700) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.02 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Jon Goldman to place Special Warrant Article 10 on the ballot

SECOND by Steve Finnegan

There was no discussion on Special Warrant Article 10.

Special Warrant Article 10 will be moved to the ballot as written.

**Special Warrant Article 11. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$46,820) for treatment to control exotic aquatic species including invasive variable milfoil and fanwort in Phillips Pond. Costs will be offset by a \$15,000 donation from the Phillips Pond Association and costs may be offset by grant funds. This article is designated as a special warrant article by the Board of Selectmen.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.07 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Darren Hudgins to place Special Warrant Article 11 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

Point of Order – Steve Finnegan corrected the reading of article and wanted to ensure the correct dollar amount was noted

Paula Gulla stated she had additional information on the status of the grant funds and recently the town has been awarded \$18,728 in grant funds.

MOTION by Paula Gulla to remove the words ‘costs may be offset by grant funds’ and replace it with ‘costs will be offset by \$18,728 in grant funds.’

SECOND by Eric Olsen

Chris True – asked since we have to raise and appropriate the full amount of treatment costs, where is the line in the budget that shows the reduction in taxes

Jon Goldman – explained that when the tax rate is set in October, then the offsetting revenues will be considered

Steve Finnegan – questioned if the tax impact should be changed

Paula Gulla – no, the tax impact is based on the gross appropriation amount

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VOTE: MOTION PASSED

Special Warrant Article 11 will now read:

**Special Warrant Article 11. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$46,820) for treatment to control exotic aquatic species including invasive variable milfoil and fanwort in Phillips Pond. Costs will be offset by a \$15,000 donation from the Phillips Pond Association and costs will be offset by \$18,728 in grant funds. This article is designated as a special warrant article by the Board of Selectmen.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.07 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

Special Warrant Article 11 will be moved to the ballot as amended.

**Special Warrant Article 12. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Stormwater Management Capital Reserve Fund previously established.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.01 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Eric Olsen to place Special Warrant Article 12 on the ballot

SECOND by Sue Reynolds

There was no discussion on Special Warrant Article 12

Special Warrant Article 12 will be moved to the ballot as written

**Special Warrant Article 13. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Fire Equipment and Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.07 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Jon Goldman to place Special Warrant Article 13 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

There was no discussion on Special Warrant Article 13.

Special Warrant Article 13 will be moved to the ballot as written



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**Special Warrant Article 14. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to be added to the Government Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.01 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Eric Olsen to place Special Warrant Article 14 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

There was no discussion on Special Warrant Article 14.

Special Warrant Article 14 will be moved to the ballot as written.

**Warrant Article 15. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Nine Dollars (\$38,459) for the purpose of staffing per diem firefighter and/or EMT coverage (no benefits). If this warrant article passes, future appropriations will be included in the operating budget.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.06 per thousand.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Jon Goldman to place Special Warrant Article 15 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

*Selectman Jon Goldman asked the Moderator for a moment to recognize Fire Chief Wilfred Tapley for his years of dedication and service to the town and noted he was stepping down as Chief. The audience gave Chief Tapley a standing ovation. Jon Goldman then acknowledged and welcomed our new Fire Chief Michael Devine and the audience gave him a round of applause.*

Amanda Knight – asked if the article is suggesting hiring Firefighters, EMT's or both

Jon Goldman – stated it could be one or both depending on the need

Chris True – asked for the per diem amount and asked if the Board of Selectmen are allowed to increase the per diem amount in the future without a vote of the town

Chief Wilfred Tapley – the per diem rate was up to \$20 per hour based on years of service and training. Danville has had this system in place and it is working fine. Sandown needs daytime coverage and we have been lucky so far, but everyone works out of town.

Jon Goldman – agreed and stated the per diem was up to \$20 and a pay scale would be created in the budget for the following year.

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Tom Tombarello – stated that this is needed and the new Fire Chief would basically be alone during the daytime hours.

Warrant Article 15 will be moved to the ballot as written.

**Special Warrant Article 16. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to 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.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 7-0-0)**

MOTION by Eric Olsen to place Special Warrant Article 16 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

Eric Olsen – stated this fund was created in 2012 with \$100 placed into the fund. This article seeks to add funds as a way to save for the years when the plowing costs exceed the budgeted amount.

Special Warrant Article 16 will be moved to the ballot as written

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to restrict reconsideration on articles 6 through 16

SECOND by Sue Reynolds

VOTE: MOTION PASSED

**Warrant Article 17. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) 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.**

**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)**

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 4-3-0)**

MOTION by Darren Hudgins to place Warrant Article 17 on the ballot

SECOND by Chris Edris

Darren Hudgins – stated the fireworks were in the budget for many years and last year, the voters were given a choice and the article failed. This article is back on the warrant this year again to see the voters' choice.

Sue Reynolds – stated she voted against this article. She feels that fundraising is the appropriate method to raise funds for fireworks just as has been done for the lights at Town Hall so it does not impact taxes.

Warrant Article 17 will move to the ballot as written.

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Moderator Majors – noted there were proposed zoning amendments and that those could be discussed however they could not be altered here. Public hearings had already taken place on the amendments.

Lynne Blaisdell – stated the zoning amendment is very important to our stormwater management regulations.

Eric Olsen – also noted that this will make the town compliant on one of the stormwater management requirements

Chris Edris – reminded the body the school deliberative session is taking place on 2/4/21 at 7:00 pm and stated it is important to attend to show representation for the town.

Steve Finnegan – took time to recognize Sue Reynolds and her work on the Budget Committee for many years. Sue is not running again and the audience gave her a round of applause.

Moderator Kevin Majors and Town Administrator Lynne Blaisdell sent out a thank you to everyone involved in setting up, preparing and executing today's Deliberative Session. The school staff was welcoming and very helpful and the town highway staff were instrumental in moving equipment to the site.

The meeting ended at 10:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula M. Gulla  
Recording Secretary