

February 1, 2020

# DRAFT

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

## **Deliberative Town Meeting Saturday, February 1, 2020**

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

**Moderator Kevin Major** called the 2020 Town of Sandown Deliberative Session to order at 9:01 am on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at the Sandown Town Hall, 320 Main Street, Sandown, New Hampshire. Boy Scouts Ben Winter and Dale Lavoie 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 10, 2020).**

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 \$4,319,408. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,116,870, 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 \$6.57 per thousand.**

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

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-1-0)**

MOTION by Steve Brown to place Special Warrant Article 2 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

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David Solomon stated the Highway budget is where it needs to be, but other budgets are not and one of those is the Recreation budget. The following motion represents a reduction in payroll, insurance and benefits bringing the Recreation Director position back to part-time

MOTION by David Solomon to reduce the budget by \$38,000

SECOND by Pam Merrill

The Moderator pointed out the body can only reduce the bottom line budget amount and not make specific reductions to any budget.

Chris Longchamps stated his experience with the Recreation department is excellent and he has 2 children in the program which benefits the town and why cut the budget.

Chris True asked what the impact would be to the taxpayer of the \$38,000 reduction.

Gayle Hamel stated it would reduce the tax impact by \$.05 per thousand.

David Solomon clarified this is to offset the budget increase and not intended to reduce taxes. He intended to put some money into infrastructure.

Darren Hudgins asked if this was to cut or relocate funds and it was not fair to say the decrease is to properly fund the budget. This is either a cut or not.

David Solomon is looking for somewhere to absorb the increases.

Matthew Brown stated 30 years ago there was not a Recreation department when he was young. He now has 4 children in the Recreation programs and why take funding away from the children.

Marianne Staska stated the programs take care of kids, seniors, offer yoga etc.

Sue Reynolds stated bringing the Rec Director position back to a stipend or part-time position is not a decision for this body to make. It is the Board of Selectmen's purview and noted that if this cut is made, it does not make the position part-time.

Amanda Knight agreed and stated this is a lot of work for one person and felt it would be more efficient as a full time position.

VOTE: MOTION to reduce the budget by \$38,000 FAILED

Bill Blanchard commended the Department Heads and staff for a good job but thought strategies need to be determined to reduce taxes.

Steve Brown stated that is a great idea but the forum for that discussion is with the Board of Selectmen and not here.

Bill Blanchard stated he brought it up because it depends on how he votes here.

Darren Hudgins stated the cell tower article coming up later may reduce taxes.

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Sheila Lowes explained the town portion of the taxes is a small portion of the total tax and the school is the larger portion.

MOTION by David Solomon to reduce the budget by \$6,500  
SECOND by John Sheats

David Solomon stated this represents a reduction to the summer recreation program.

VOTE: MOTION to reduce the budget by \$6,500 FAILS

Chris Edris pointed out the \$6.57 tax impact raises a \$300,000 home by approximately \$1,500 and the entire budget by \$1,971.

Bill Blanchard asked for the tax impact of the difference of the budget and default budget.

Gayle Hamel stated \$.39 per thousand.

Lynne Blaisdell stated it was about \$100 on a \$250,000 home.

Tyler Marcotte asked if the tax impact of the default budget could be added to the article.

Atty. Gorrow stated the governing body adds the tax impacts to the article and the tax impact of the default budget could be added.

Bill Blanchard stated other articles have the tax impact and he felt it should be added for the default budget and there is no impact listed.

Gayle Hamel stated the tax impact of the default budget would be \$6.27.

Moderator noted a motion would need to be made to add this to the article.

After a brief discussion on the wording, the following motion was made.

MOTION by Bill Blanchard to revise the tax impact wording to state:  
'Estimated tax impact of the proposed operating budget of this article is \$6.57 per thousand.  
Estimated tax impact of the default budget of this article is \$6.27 per thousand.'  
SECOND by Pam Merrill

VOTE: Motion to alter the wording of the tax impact of warrant article 2 as noted above  
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 \$4,319,408. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,116,870, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the**

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**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 \$6.57 per thousand.**

**Estimated tax impact of the default budget of this article is \$6.27 per thousand.**

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

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-1-0)**

John Kratz commented on the summer program as a positive but felt it could be more efficient and stated other towns' costs are half again more than our program. We should be looking at increase to out of town residents and see what the income threshold is for our residents and maybe offer a break.

Deb Brown explained that our program is more expensive than Plaistow and Atkinson but less expensive than Hampstead recreation program. The difference is that those towns contribute to their recreation programs. There are 5-8 children from out of town. The Recreation department does not investigate the financial background and income levels of residents. If there is a financial hardship, the residents are directed to the Town Welfare Director.

John Kratz stated he was being more specific to privately owned recreation programs such as Sandlots, Camp Lincoln and not other towns' recreation programs and he is trying to alleviate the tax burden.

Deb Brown stated those are run by private companies. The Recreation payroll is the largest item but that is covered by the user fees. Last year's costs were \$52,000 and the fees covered the entire amount.

MOTION by David Solomon to reduce the budget by \$40,600

SECOND by John Sheats

David Solomon stated he is looking for offsets not to reduce programs.

Chris True asked for the tax impact of this reduction.

Gayle Hamel stated it would be \$.06 per thousand.

VOTE: MOTION to reduce the budget by \$40,600 FAILS

David Solomon stated the plowing line was reduced by \$4,000 and since the block grant funds are not set in stone, he made the following motion.

MOTION by David Solomon to increase the budget by \$4,000

SECOND by Joel Loguidice

Bill Blanchard questioned if it was a guarantee that block grant could be reduced.

Paula Gulla stated that it had been reduced in previous years but there had been no reduction for the past 3 years at least.

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VOTE: MOTION to increase the budget by \$4,000 FAILS

John Donahue commented on adding the tax impact line regarding the default budget as dangerous because people may just look at the lower tax impact and vote for the default budget.

John Kratz stated he thinks the library hours should be varied which would reduce the library budget by \$53,000.

The Moderator pointed out that motion failed.

Bill Blanchard thinks the estimated tax impact on the default budget will help people decide.

Diana True questioned where the \$53,000 amount came from and she pointed out the early morning hours help moms with children and the evening hours help those who work. Patrons have asked to have the library open on Friday, a day when it is currently closed. She is not sure what the dollar impact would be to lessen the library hours.

Paula Bonin stated she was impressed at the turnout but reminded the body that the school deliberative is where people should attend since that budget is up by 15 million dollars. We live in a community and we shouldn't take it all away.

John Kratz stated he is not talking about reducing services.

Amanda Knight stated that in a list of towns like ours, we are in the middle for costs to run the library

Tina Owens stated the library is fiscally responsible and reducing hours would hinder those who are unemployed and seeking job searches, children for the resources available to them and even for those who are using the library as a safe environment. This reduction would affect library staff and their jobs.

Carroll Bassett asked if this discussion was out of order.

Tina Owens felt it was a good discussion.

Chris True stated this is a bottom line budget and noted we voted the Selectmen in to take this all into consideration and we need to understand the Selectmen can do what they want regarding budget reductions.

Bruce Cleveland stated he voted against the budget last year but recommended it this year. He noted it is not perfect but felt departments did a good job with their budgets. The 2 budgets in question are only 1% of the total budget and it is a sliver that he doesn't agree with.

MOTION by Peter Stock to remove the previous amendment on the estimated tax impact of the default budget

SECOND by John Donahue

Bill Blanchard stated he voted against the budget last year.

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Tyler Marcotte stated he is in sales and thinks the notation is a benefit.

Mark Sherwood agreed this portion is only 1% of the budget but what about the other 99%. He supports revoking the amendment.

Bill Blanchard feels people should make an educated decision and by removing the notation, you are taking away that component.

Chris True stated was undecided at first but after getting more information, he feels this shows transparency and it should be up to the voters to decide.

Kate Winter supports the amendment and feels it should remain.

VOTE: MOTION to remove the previous amendment on the estimated tax impact of the default budget FAILS

Dave Cheney stated we need to educate our neighbors about the budget, and he made a MOTION to move the question.

The Moderator stated you cannot move the question and comment on the article at the same time.

MOTION by Julianna Ball to move the question

SECOND by Scott Bassett

VOTE: MOTION to move the question PASSED

Warrant Article 2 will be moved to the ballot as amended

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to restrict reconsideration on Warrant Article 2

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

VOTE: MOTION to restrict reconsideration PASSED

*The meeting recessed at 10:30 am and reconvened at 10:45 am*

**Warrant Article 3. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate and authorize the Selectmen to accept a Highway Block Grant an amount expected to be received in the sum of One Hundred Seventy One Thousand One Dollars (\$171,001) for the road improvement programs to be recommended by the Sandown Highway Department and approved by the Sandown Board of Selectmen, said sum to be supplied by the State of New Hampshire.**

**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 Bruce Cleveland to place Warrant Article 3 on the ballot

SECOND by Sue Reynolds

There was no discussion on Warrant Article 3.

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

**Special Warrant Article 4. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000) 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)**

MOTION by Bruce Cleveland to place Special Warrant Article 4 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

There was no discussion on Special Warrant Article 4.

Special Warrant Article 4 will be moved to the ballot as written.

**Special Warrant Article 5. Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement not to exceed five years in the amount of Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) for the purpose of leasing/purchasing cardiac monitoring equipment for the Fire and Rescue Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the first year's payment. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause. This article is designated as a special warrant article by the Board of Selectmen.**

**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 Bruce Cleveland to place Special Warrant Article 5 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

Jonathan Goldman, Rescue Captain explained the current equipment no longer meets the standards, cannot be refurbished and needs to be replaced. He is hoping to obtain a 3-year lease that is less than the \$15,000.

Chris Edris asked for an explanation of the escape clause.

Jonathan Goldman stated that for municipalities, there needs to be an escape clause in every lease to nullify the contract should funding not be approved in any year of the contract.

Several other questions were addressed including the fact that voters should be made aware that the equipment must be removed from the vehicle by 2021 and that not having current equipment will negatively affect treatment of cardiac patients.

Dean Sotirakopolous suggested making the amount for the first year's payment 'up to' \$15,000.

Atty. Gorrow explained that is not acceptable language and that the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) needs amounts to be a certain sum.

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Lynne Blaisdell also noted that if the first year's payment was less than \$15,000 any unexpended funds could be encumbered towards the next year's payment.

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 One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for site work and construction of a new salt shed at the Highway Garage. Costs will be offset by \$ 62,866 of unassigned fund balance, which represents the 2019 Municipal Aid received and \$67,366 Municipal Aid to be received in 2020. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.23 per thousand.**

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

**(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: 1-6-0)**

MOTION by Bruce Cleveland to put Special Warrant Article 6 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

Bill Blanchard asked why the Budget Committee did not recommend this article.

Sue Reynolds explained that she fully supports the salt shed but felt the municipal aid money should be spent to reduce taxes.

Steve Finnegan stated he felt this was not the right year to do the salt shed.

Bruce Cleveland explained the town already has \$62,866 and the other half of the municipal aid is coming. The site work on the shed will cost about \$20,000 or less. The current shed is small and material freezes making it more work and manpower to break up the chunks of material prior to use. This new shed has a 15-20 year shelf life and the old shed will be used for sand and the new shed for salt. Vehicles can also be stored under the new shed when the salt supply is low. For an estimated tax impact of \$.23 per thousand on the full appropriation, Mr. Cleveland stated this is a no-brainer. The tax impact may be less, and this new shed will help with stormwater requirements and reduce hauling costs since the shed will hold much more than the old shed.

Darren Hudgins stated this is a necessary infrastructure and we can get it at 20% of the actual cost with the municipal aid funds.

Sue Reynolds explained that this article was presented a bit out of the ordinary process. At the time of the public hearing there were 3 different versions of this article and the Selectmen had not yet made their decision which one would go on the ballot. The Budget committee was asked to make recommendations on all 3 versions, and she did vote in favor of a different version. If this article is not changed here, then the budget committee cannot change their recommendation.

Chris Edris felt the Budget Committee voted on their preference of the three articles rather than voting on the versions independently.

John Kratz asked if this cost includes labor.



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Bruce Cleveland stated yes, all costs are included.

Alex Dunbar asked if the Budget Committee could change their recommendation.

MOTION by Bruce Cleveland to change the dollar amount to \$149,000

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

The Moderator asked for verification that this would allow the Budget Committee to change their recommendation.

Atty Gorrow stated yes, if the dollar amount changes.

Amanda Knight suggested adding a dollar instead.

Alex Dunbar asked if the changes could have a notation on the article.

Atty Gorrow stated the changes would go onto the ballot.

Sue Reynolds asked if the recommendation could be changed here at this meeting.

Atty Gorrow stated the legal way would be for the Budget Committee to hold a legal meeting to change their recommendation, however, if they changed it here, that action does not affect the validity of the article.

VOTE: MOTION to change the dollar amount to \$149,000 PASSED

Sue Reynolds requested the Budget Committee vote on their recommendation at this time.

The Moderator asked if there was any further discussion on Special Warrant Article 6.

Dave Cheney questioned the tax impact and wondered if it should reflect the appropriation after the municipal aid money.

Atty Gorrow stated the Selectmen determine the estimated tax impact and this notion had been discussed. This is not an exact science, but it was determined to estimate the tax impact on the gross appropriation.

Dave Cheney asked if the tax impact could be changed after today.

Atty. Gorrow stated yes.

Chris True stated he was in support of using the municipal aid money to cut the tax rate.

David Solomon asked if this money could be put into the Highway Capital Reserve Fund.

Lynne Blaisdell stated only money left over from the plowing line item could be used.

Tom Tombarello stated he had discussed this over with Artie and we need this new shed.

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

MOTION by Sue Reynolds to recommend the article as amended  
SECOND by Chris Edris

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kontos-no, Edris-yes, Knight-yes, Walker-no, Finnegan-no, Reynolds-no,  
Tombarello-yes  
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-4-0

Special Warrant Article 6 will now read:

**Special Warrant Article 6. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars (\$149,999) for site work and construction of a new salt shed at the Highway Garage. Costs will be offset by \$ 62,866 of unassigned fund balance, which represents the 2019 Municipal Aid received and \$67,366 Municipal Aid to be received in 2020. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.23 per thousand.  
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)  
(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: 3-4-0)**

**Special Warrant Article 7. Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of site work and expansion costs of the Center Cemetery. This article is designated as a special warrant article by the Board of Selectmen. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.05 per thousand.  
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 5-0-0)  
(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-0-1)**

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to place Special Warrant Article 7 on the ballot  
SECOND by Eric Olsen

Carroll Bassett, Cemetery Trustee, explained that there are only 12 double graves and 1 single grave left in the current Center Cemetery, that more graves are needed and required. This project would significantly increase the number of graves and much of the work is being done voluntarily. The project includes the excavation, stump removal, topsoil and fencing which represents much of the cost in the warrant article.

Bruce Cleveland asked how many additional graves this will provide and the cost of the graves currently

Carroll Bassett stated 640 graves would be created and graves are \$200 each. Half of the cost goes for perpetual care and half goes into the cemetery maintenance fund. The town budget is \$3,801.

Darren Hudgins stated that this article failed last year in an amount of \$38,000. This year, the cemetery trustees reduced the article to \$30,000 and will put in \$8,000 from the cemetery funds.

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Tom Tombarello read RSA 289:2 which confirms that municipalities... 'shall provide one or more suitable cemeteries for the interment of deceased persons'.

Steve Finnegan stated he supports the article especially since so much of the work is being done for free and the costs could have been significantly higher.

Steve Brown stated that there are only 12 gravesites left and we can't wait on this project.

Chris True asked why the cost of the graves isn't enough to cover the future needs.

Carroll Bassett stated they try and keep the costs down since funeral expenses are so high and some residents experience hardship with those costs. They ask just enough for the graves to cover their costs.

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

**Special Warrant Article 8. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.19 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 Special Warrant Article 8 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

Tom Tombarello noted the town applied for State Aid for Phillips Rd bridge and we are on the schedule for 2027 with an expected cost of 1.1 million dollars and an 80/20 split with the state.

In order to be ready for 2027, the costs have been divided over the upcoming 7 years. Phillips Road Bridge had a temporary fix 3 years ago and if this replacement project is not funded, the bridge may have to be closed in the future.

Brian Beliveau stated in his opinion, Phillips Road bridge won't last 10 years.

Bruce Cleveland explained this is long term project. If the bridge closes then emergency services are re-routed, commutes are longer, and this is a good savings plan rather than having to appropriate the entire amount at once.

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

**Special Warrant Article 9. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$13,750) 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)**

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

SECOND by Bruce Cleveland

Tom Tombarello stated this article failed last year and the amount this year reflects what is needed to catch up to what is needed before the next revaluation. The town is mandated to do a revaluation every 5 years.

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

**Special Warrant Article 10. 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 \$.08 per thousand.**

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

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

MOTION by Bruce Cleveland to place Special Warrant Article 10 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

Bruce Cleveland gave an overview of the fund and that with matching grant funds that need to be in place prior to any purchases, the town has purchased a new ladder truck and ambulance.

Every 5-7 years, there will be a vehicle that needs replacing and this is a lay away plan for that purpose.

Tom Tombarello agreed and said this fund looks to the future. He gave the example of our police station that was funded through a capital reserve fund and the fact that the town now owes nothing on our police station unlike other neighboring towns that will be paying for their station over many years.

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 Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$4,625) for treatment to control exotic aquatic species including invasive variable milfoil and fanwort in Phillips Pond. 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 \$.01 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 Tom Tombarello

Paula Gulla explained that for several years the town has been treating the exotic weeds in Phillips Pond. In 2018 we funded about \$44,000 for herbicide treatment and diving treatment. In 2019, we again funded \$28,000 for both herbicide treatment and diving, however, the diving was not needed. Therefore, \$7,875 was encumbered or carried over to lower this year's costs. This

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year, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is suggesting diving only at a cost of \$12,500. The encumbered funds have lowered that cost to \$4,625.

Nancy Kelly questioned if receiving state grant funds obligates the town to open the town beach to all the public, not just town residents. Ms. Kelly thought that happened in Hampstead.

Paula Gulla stated she was unaware of that provision in the grant but would certainly contact the state to explore Ms. Kelly's question.

Tina Owens noted that other ponds have provisions that boats need to be washed and cleaned of weeds etc. prior to entering the pond and she asked if we had such requirements.

Ben Sharpe stated there was signage to that effect.

Brian Thomas asked a question regarding the boat ramp and parking.

Paula Gulla could not speak to his question.

Sue Reynolds asked what the Phillips Pond Association was doing regarding treatment to the pond and if they were providing funding.

Paula Gulla stated they were pursuing another treatment method with the state that involved lake bottom mats. This may be used in certain areas at the expense of the Pond Association.

Warrant Article 11 will be moved to the ballot as written.

**Special Warrant Article 12. 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. This article is designated as a special warrant article by the Board of Selectmen.**

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

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

**(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: 3-4-0)**

MOTION by Darren Hudgins to place Special Warrant Article 12 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

Darren Hudgins stated he is in favor of the warrant article and that the Board wanted to put this to warrant for one time this year since the budget didn't pass.

Diana True asked if this would be put back into the budget if approved.

Lynne Blaisdell stated that future years could be put back into the budget by the Board of Selectmen if they so choose.

Sue Reynolds stated she is not in favor of this warrant article.

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

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**Special Warrant Article 13. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to be added to the Stormwater Management Capital Reserve Fund previously established.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is less than \$.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 13 on the ballot

SECOND by Bruce Cleveland

There was no discussion on Special Warrant Article 13.

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

**Special Warrant Article 14. Shall the Town vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be known as the Government Building Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of repair, maintenance and new construction of government buildings and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) towards this purpose, and to further appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.**

**Estimated tax impact of this article is less than \$.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 Tom Tombarello

Eric Olsen stated he proposed this article because there have been issues in town buildings in the past such as the flooding at the library and issues to address with the Town Hall. There are several town buildings to keep up and this article will save for the costs.

Bruce Cleveland stated this is a savings.

Bill Blanchard is in favor and asked who would govern the funds and if this was only for government buildings

Eric Olsen stated it was his vision to put \$25,000 – \$50,000 aside to fund needed repairs.

Steve Brown stated the Selectmen are faced with building decision each year and how to fund them.

Chris True questioned whether these were capital items or maintenance items and if they were maintenance items, shouldn't they be in the budget.

Darren Hudgins noted the issues with the porch at the Town Hall and stated those repairs probably fall in a gray area.

Chris True felt that repairs to the porch falls under maintenance and should be in the budget however capital improvements such as an addition would be a capital improvement.

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Attorney Gorrow clarified that a capital reserve fund can be used for repair, maintenance etc. and that this is in the scope of what the law allows.

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

**Special Warrant Article 15. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) to be added to the Old Home Day Celebration Expendable Trust 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: 6-1-0)**

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to place Special Warrant Article 15 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

Paula Gulla stated she was speaking as an Old Home Day Committee member and the warrant article failed last year. She did research and found that the town has funded the Old Home Day celebration for at least the past 20 years whether it was run by a town committee or a group of residents. The committee is seeking the answer from the voters as to whether they want to continue to fund this event and therefore the warrant article is on the ballot again this year.

Special 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 One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) to support Southern Rockingham Coalition for Healthy Youth. If this warrant article passes, future appropriations will be included in the operating budget. This article is designated as a special warrant article by the Board of Selectmen.**

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

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

**(Recommended by the Budget Committee: 6-1-0)**

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to place Special Warrant Article 16 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

Tom Tombarello stated this would fall under the Health and Human Services budget but the first year an organization asks for funding, the Selectmen put it as a warrant article. Aurie Roy came to the Selectmen and asked initially for \$6,000 in support and the Selectmen felt that since they had cut other service agencies due to the default budget, they could not support a request for \$6,000. Members of the organization agreed with the Selectmen and the amount was reduced to \$1,500.

Chris True asked if this article locks the Selectmen into \$1,500 for this agency or does the Board have flexibility to raise or lower the amount at their discretion.

Lynne Blaisdell stated this year the Selectmen would be locked into \$1,500 if the article passes but in future years, this would be in the budget and the Selectmen would choose the amount.

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John Kratz felt this was money well spent.

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

**Petitioned Warrant Article 17. Shall the Town vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to research the feasibility of entering into a long-term lease with a tower development company to construct a telecommunications tower on town property only within the existing Business District as delineated by Article 1, Part D Business District, Section 1, submitted by petition.**

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

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

MOTION by Steve Brown to place Petitioned Warrant Article 17 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

John Kratz asked if he saw a cell tower already on Main Street.

David Solomon stated he was the petitioner and yes there is a tower on Main Street, but it is on private land. He would like to start a committee to investigate this as a potential revenue source for the town.

Alice Major stated the idea of a cell tower failed in 2016 and wondered how it would decrease taxes.

David Solomon stated that 95% of the people in the room most likely have cell phones.

Tina Owens stated that she supports Mr. Solomon and feels he is trying to control expenses.

John Kratz asked how much revenue could be expected.

David Solomon could not speculate until after the committee had done some research.

Arlene Bassett stated she owns the property on Main Street that has the current cell tower and that only 2 carriers participate – ATT and Verizon. They do not make a lot of revenue and other carriers have been contacted but are not interested. With their arrangement, even if more carriers participate, the Bassetts do not receive any additional funds.

Alice Major felt the Recreation and Library are the type of things that make Sandown our community and not a cell tower.

David Solomon stated this article is advisory only.

John Kratz stated no one is insinuating to get rid of any programs, the intent is to streamline and control costs.

Petitioned Warrant Article 17 will move to the ballot as written.

MOTION by Bruce Cleveland to restrict reconsideration on articles 3 through 16



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SECOND by Steve Brown

VOTE: MOTION to restrict reconsideration on articles 3 through 16 PASSED

**Petitioned Warrant Article 18. Shall the Town vote to rescind RSA 41:14-a, which allows the Selectmen to sell land, buildings or both, submitted by petition.**

**(Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 1-4-0)**

**(Not Recommended by the Budget Committee: 1-4-2)**

MOTION by Steve Brown to place Petitioned Warrant Article 18 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

David Solomon stated he was the petitioner and when town land is being sold, he feels the town should vote on it. He pointed out the process of going to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and that 50 registered voters can petition to have the sale put on the warrant. He speculated that obtaining 50 signatures would be difficult and he felt people may not know the sale is taking place.

Carroll Bassett stated he originally supported the Board selling town land but recently has changed his mind. He isn't sure how these small lots are getting approved for building and supports the warrant article with mixed feelings.

John Kratz stated there should be system of checks and balances to avoid cronyism.

Carroll Bassett pointed out the land can be sold at public auction as was done in the past.

Darren Hudgins noted the controversy likely involved the sale of 10 Birch Drive. The process was followed, and he said was sorry it didn't work out the way people may have wanted. To have any sale wait until town meeting will hinder someone purchasing property. These sales bring in tax revenue for the town.

David Solomon agreed the Birch Drive was an example and that decision should have gone to the voters.

Chris True agrees that selling land may be beneficial but not sold by the Selectmen. Some of these are small lots abandoned and the tax revenue to the town is small in comparison to the cost of each student. He feels the people should make the decision since some of these lots may remain as green space for the town.

Bruce Cleveland stated the authority was given to the Selectmen by the voters in 2015. There have been some scenarios that the public was not privy to that the Selectmen were not able to negotiate to closure that would have brought more money to the town.

He suggested a sign could be posted on the lot being considered for sale if anyone else is interested. He reiterated the process before any sale is complete which includes the Planning board recommendation, Conservation Commission recommendation, 2 public hearings and then a vote. If this article passes, each sale will have to wait until town meeting in March which could be almost a year in some cases.

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849

850 Scott Bassett stated he voted against this and just doesn't understand why the need to sell since  
851 these are off the tax roles and the decision should be in the hands of the voters.

852

853 John Kratz clarified his point about checks and balances and felt there should be no public  
854 authority to sell public land.

855

856 Darren Hudgins pointed out that 50 registered voters can stop the process and force the sale to go  
857 on the ballot.

858

859 John Kratz stated he felt sole authority on the part of the Selectmen doesn't look good.

860

861 Tom Tombarello talked about the fact the Selectmen take this seriously and there is a multi-step  
862 process involved, including site walks, possible perk tests on the part of the potential buyer  
863 providing the proper insurance certificates are provided and that no 'deals' are being made.

864

865 MOTION by Carroll Bassett to move the question

866 SECOND by Dawn Nicolaisen

867

868 VOTE: MOTION to move the question PASSED

869

870 Petitioned Warrant Article 18 will move to the ballot as written

871

872 The meeting ended at 12:01 pm.

873

874 Respectfully submitted,

875

876

877 Paula M. Gulla

878 Recording Secretary