

February 5, 2022

REVISED DRAFT

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

Deliberative Town Meeting Saturday, February 5, 2022

Town Officials Present: Moderator Kevin Major, Assistant Moderator Kate Winter, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Eric Olsen, Vice Chairman Jonathan Goldman, Selectman Thomas Tombarello, Selectman Darren Hudgins, Selectman Robert Nickerson, Town Counsel Attorney Diane Gorrow, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Dawn Nicolaisen, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Tanya Gaynor, Town Clerk Office Assistant Christine Schnaible, Budget Committee Members: Chairman Chris Edris, Vice Chairman Benjamin Sharpe, Amanda Knight, Leslie Kruithof, Town Administrator, Lynne Blaisdell, Finance Director Gayle Hamel, Supervisors of the Checklist Rosemarie Bruno, Heather Zaganis and Recording Secretary Paula Gulla.

State Representative Chris True was present in the audience along with School Board member Steven Finnegan and School Budget Committee member Mark Sherwood.

Moderator Kevin Major called the 2022 Town of Sandown Deliberative Session to order at 9:03 am on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at the Sandown Town Hall 320 Main Street, Sandown, New Hampshire. Scout Owen 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 8, 2022).

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 \$4,924,225 Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,709,135 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 \$7.23 per thousand.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen: 4-0-0)

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

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MOTION by Tom Tombarello to place Warrant Article 2 on the ballot
SECOND by Eric Olsen

David Solomon said he thought the plumbing and electrical inspector budgets were revenue neutral in previous years but had revenue this year and wondered why.

Gayle Hamel, Finance Director explained that not all inspections can always be completed in the year the permit is issued and therefore some carries over to the next year.

David Solomon also noted there is no one currently in the Recreation Director position and he felt it would take time to fill the position and therefore, the full payroll line should not remain the same. He asked if there was a deadline to fill the position.

Darren Hudgins stated there is an ad running and they are actively looking to fill the position.

MOTION by David Solomon to reduce the proposed operating budget by \$150,000 to a new proposed amount of \$4,774,225.
SECOND by John Sheats

Tom Tombarello asked for Mr. Solomon's rational for the reduction.

David Solomon stated it may be 3 months before a person is put into the position and he would like to see the 5% raise lessened to 1.5%. On the inspections, he doesn't see why the taxpayers should come up with the fees ahead of time and he felt the Library budget increased again and felt it was \$50,000 over the current budget.

Diana True stated as of October 2021 the Library budget was only 75% expended which was on target and she is not sure what Mr. Solomon was referring to.

Gayle Hamel noted the Recreation budget had a significant cut this year. The inspectors' budgets must raise and appropriate what is thought to be expended otherwise the budget is over budget and that puts pressure on the other budgets if the inspectors' budgets are in fact over expended.

Jonathan Goldman stated that is the downside of a fee based position and again stated that not all permits issued are inspected the same year.

David Solomon asked if fees should be raised again.

Jon Goldman the existing fees have already been corrected.

Tom Tombarello agreed and said they raised the fees several years ago and performed a study of 10 area towns at that time.

Chris True pointed out it is a reduction to the bottom line budget and it is the purview of the Selectmen to decide where the particular cuts would come from.

Moderator Kevin Major noted that was true however it is the member's right to state why they want the cuts.

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Chris Edris noted the Library budget was within 3 dollars of their budget at the end of the year.

Jon Goldman agreed that it is nice to know why Mr. Solomon wanted to cut \$150,000 from the budget.

The Moderator stated there is a request from a non-resident to speak – the Library Director Adam Shlager

MOTION by Moderator Major to allow Mr. Shlager to speak

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

VOTE: MOTION PASSED

Adam Shlager stated if the year-to-date number is the one Mr. Solomon is referring to, there was a 2.5% cut on that budget and this year's budget is a 2% increase – it is a tight budget.

VOTE: MOTION to reduce the budget by \$150,000 FAILED

Warrant Article 2 will be moved to the ballot as written

Warrant Article 3. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Forty Four Dollars (\$162,044) 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 3 on the ballot

SECOND by Chris Edris

There was no discussion on this article.

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 Five Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$547,500) to be added to the previously established Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.80 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 4 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

There was no discussion on this article.

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

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MOTION by Tom Tombarello to restrict reconsideration on Articles 2, 3 and 4

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

VOTE: MOTION PASSED

Special Warrant Article 5. 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 place Special Warrant Article 5 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

There was no discussion on this article.

Special 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 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.

(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 6 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

There was no discussion on this article.

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

Warrant Article 7. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Four Thousand Dollars (\$54,000) for the purpose of additional per diem firefighter and/or EMT staffing and coverage (no benefits). If this warrant article passes, future appropriations will be included in the operating budget.

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 Jonathan Goldman to put Warrant Article 7 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

David Solomon asked if the Fire Department anticipated hiring more than one person as a per diem.

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Jonathan Goldman explained today there is 1 person for 40 hours, 5 days per week.
With the additional hours, there will be 2 people 10 hours per day.

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 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 Darren Hudgins to place Special Warrant Article 8 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

There was no discussion on this article.

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 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 Jonathan Goldman to place Special Warrant Article 9 on the ballot.

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

There was no discussion on this article.

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 Twenty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty Five Dollars (\$28,245) for treatment to control exotic aquatic species including invasive variable milfoil and fanwort in Phillips Pond. Costs will be offset by grant funds and a \$10,000 donation from the Phillips Pond Association. This article is designated as a special warrant article by the Board of Selectmen.

Estimated tax impact of this article is \$.04 per thousand.

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

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

MOTION by Robert Nickerson to place Special Warrant Article 10 on the ballot

SECOND by Eric Olsen

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There was no discussion on this article.

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

Special Warrant Article 11. Shall the Town vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, to be known as the Phillips Pond Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of preserving, enhancing, monitoring and protecting the pond, its water quality and natural ecology, parking and boat ramp installation, maintenance, repairs and improvements and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to be placed in this fund 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 Robert Nickerson to place Special Warrant Article 11 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

Scott Bassett asked who will control the funds in this Expendable Trust Fund.

Moderator Major noted in the last sentence of the article is states the Selectmen are the agents to expend from the fund.

Jonathan Goldman explained that the Selectmen would be the ones to expend the funds but they would still come to the voters to add monies to the fund.

Paula Gulla added that in future years there would not be 2 warrant articles as there are this year, only the Expendable Trust Fund and it would involve both the treatment of the pond and allow the Selectmen to explore access to the pond by maintaining and repairing the current boat ramps and explore new access points to the pond.

MOTION by Tom Tombarello to restrict reconsideration on Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

SECOND by Darren

VOTE: MOTION PASSED

Special Warrant Article 12. 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 12 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

There was no discussion on this article.

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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 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 13 on the ballot

SECOND by Darren Hudgins

There was no discussion on this article.

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

Special Warrant Article 14. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) 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: 7-0-0)

MOTION by Darren Hudgins to place Special Warrant Article 14 on the ballot

SECOND by Chris Edris

There was no discussion on this article.

Special Warrant Article 14 will move to the ballot as written.

Warrant Article 15. 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: 7-0-0)

MOTION by Darren Hudgins to place Warrant Article 15 on the ballot

SECOND by Tom Tombarello

There was no discussion on this article.

Warrant Article 15 will move to the ballot as written.

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MOTION by Tom Tombarello to restrict reconsideration on Articles 12, 13, 14, and 15.
SECOND by Darren Hudgins
VOTE: MOTION PASSED

Chris True stated that it has been mentioned that hundreds of thousands of dollars are unexpended and he wondered where he could find that in the budget.

Jonathan Goldman gave several examples where funds were placed in a warrant article the first year and then in the budget in subsequent years. He also mentioned many unexpended funds go into the unassigned fund balance.

Darren Hudgins agreed and stated that those funds are considered when setting the tax rate in the fall.

Amanda Knight cited an example also of the Expendable Trust Fund for plowing.

Steven Finnegan reminded those of the School Deliberative Session on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at the Performing Arts Center at 7:00 pm.

The meeting ended at 10:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula M. Gulla
Recording Secretary