

# 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.

50 **Secoded by:** Steve Brown

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

52 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

53

54 **Assessing – 4150-06**

55 **Motion by** Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$87,626, revenue of  
56 \$0 and net expenses of \$87,626.

57 **Secoded by:** Steve Brown

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

59 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

60

61 **Tax Collector – 4150-07**

62 **Motion by** Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$85,090, revenue of  
63 \$65,000 and net expenses of \$20,090.

64 **Secoded by:** Steve Brown

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

66 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

67

68 **Treasurer – 4150-08**

69 **Motion by** Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$4,545, revenue of  
70 \$0 and net expenses of \$4,545.

71 **Secoded by:** Leslie Kruithof

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

73 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

74

75 **Budget Committee – 4150-09**

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

78 **Secoded by:** Ben Sharpe

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

80 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

81

82 **Benefits - 4155**

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

85 **Secoded by:** Ben Sharpe

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

87 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

88

89 **Planning Board – 4191-11**

90 **Motion by** Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$27,029, revenue of  
91 \$2,000 and net expenses of \$25,029.

92 **Secoded by:** Steve Brown

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

94 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

95

96 **Zoning Board of Adjustment – 4191-12**

97 **Motion by** Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$2,928, revenue of  
98 \$2,000 and net expenses of \$928.

99 **Secoded by:** Leslie Kruithof

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

102

103 **Government Buildings - 4194**

104 **Motion by** Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$104,395, revenue of  
105 \$1,000 and net expenses of \$103,395.

106 ***Seconded by:*** Steve Brown

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

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

113

114 **Cemetery - 4195**

115 **Motion by** Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$5,001, revenue of  
116 \$0 and net expenses of \$5,001.

117 ***Seconded by:*** Leslie Kruithof

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

120

121 **Insurance - 4196**

122 **Motion by** Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$136,057, revenue of  
123 \$0 and net expenses of \$136,057.

124 ***Seconded by:*** Ben Sharpe

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

127

128 **Trustees of the Trust Fund - 4199**

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

131 ***Seconded by:*** Ben Sharpe

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

134

135 **Police - 4210**

136 **Motion by** Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$870,344, revenue of  
137 \$1,790 and net expenses of \$868,554.

138 ***Seconded by:*** Steve Brown

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

141

142 **Rescue - 4215**

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

146

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

149 ***Seconded by:*** Ben Sharpe

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

151 ***Opposed:*** Dave Solomon

152 ***Motion passes 5-1-0***

153

154 **Fire - 4220**

155 **Motion by** Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$352,404, revenue of  
156 \$100 and net expenses of \$352,304.

157 ***Seconded by:*** Steve Brown

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

159 ***Opposed:*** Dave Solomon

160 ***Motion passes 5-1-0***

161

162 **Building Inspection – 4241-20**

163 **Motion by** Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$24,908, revenue of  
164 \$25,000 and net expenses of \$92.

165 ***Seconded by:*** Steve Brown

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

167 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

168

169 **Code Enforcement – 4241-21**

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

172 ***Seconded by:*** Assunta Ternullo

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

174 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

175

176 **Plumbing Inspection – 4241-22**

177 **Motion by** Steve Brown to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$30,128, revenue of  
178 \$15,000 and net expenses of \$15,128.

179 ***Seconded by:*** Dave Solomon

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

181 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

182

183 **Electrical Inspection – 4241-23**

184 **Motion by** Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$16,700, revenue of  
185 \$14,000 and net expenses of \$2,700.

186 ***Seconded by:*** Leslie Kruithof

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

188 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

189

190 **Septic Inspection - 4242**

191 **Motion by** Assunta Ternullo to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$10,795, revenue of  
192 \$10,000 and net expenses of \$795.

193 ***Seconded by:*** Leslie Kruithof

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

195 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

196

197 **Highway Facility - 4311**

198 **Motion by** Ben Sharpe to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$9,590, revenue of \$0 and  
199 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

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

252

253 **Health and Human Services - 4415**

254 **Motion by** Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$19,393, revenue of  
255 \$0 and net expenses of \$19,393.

256 ***Seconded by:*** Steve Brown

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

258 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

259

260 **Community Assistance - 4445**

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

263 ***Seconded by:*** Ben Sharpe

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

265 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

266

267 **Parks and Recreation – 4520-36**

268 **Motion by** Dave Solomon to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$112,387, revenue of  
269 \$1 and net expenses of \$112,386.

270 ***Seconded by:*** Ben Sharpe

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

272 ***Opposed:*** Dave Solomon

273 ***Motion passes 5-1-0***

274

275 **Library - 4550**

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

278 ***Seconded by:*** Ben Sharpe

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

280 ***Abstain:*** Steve Brown

281 ***Motion passes 5-0-1***

282

283 **Patriotic Purposes - 4583**

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

286 ***Seconded by:*** Assunta Ternullo

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

288 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

289

290 **Conservation Commission - 4619**

291 **Motion by** Amanda Knight to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$9,832, revenue of  
292 \$240 and net expenses of \$9,592.

293 ***Seconded by:*** Leslie Kruithof

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

295 ***Motion passes 6-0-0***

296

297 **Debt Expense Principle - 4711**

298 **Motion by** Leslie Kruithof to move this budget to the ballot with gross expenses of \$45,000, revenue of  
299 \$0 and net expenses of \$45,000.

300 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

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

302 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

303

304 **Debt Expense Interest - 4721**

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

307 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

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

309 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

310

311 **TAN Note - 4723**

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

314 **Seconded by:** Ben Sharpe

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

316 **Motion passes 6-0-0**

317

318 **Warrant Articles**

319

320 **Warrant Article 2**

321 Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special  
322 warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with  
323 the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling  
324 \$6,058,414 Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$5,858,042 which is the same as  
325 last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing  
326 body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a  
327 revised operating budget only. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations  
328 contained in ANY other warrant articles. Estimated tax impact of this article is \$5.32 per thousand.

329 **Motion to recommend by:** Steve Brown

330 **Seconded by:** Ben Sharpe

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

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

335 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-0**

336

337 **Warrant Article 3**

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

342

343	<b>Contract Year</b>	<b>Estimated Increase</b>
344	Year 1	\$49,510
345	Year 2	\$50,404
346	Year 3	\$40,519

347

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

349 for the current fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024, such sum  
350 representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new  
351 agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

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

353 **Motion to recommend by:** Ben Sharpe

354 **Seconded by:** Leslie Kruithof

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

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

360 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

361

#### 362 **Warrant Article 4**

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

365 **Motion to recommend by:** Leslie Kruithof

366 **Seconded by:** Dave Solomon

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

369 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

370

#### 371 **Warrant Article 5**

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

376 **Motion to recommend by:** Steve Brown

377 **Seconded by:** Ben Sharpe

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

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

384 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

385

#### 386 **Special Warrant Article 6**

387 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Dollars  
388 (\$592,000) to be added to the previously established Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Estimated  
389 tax impact of this article is \$.52 per thousand.

390 **Motion to recommend by:** Dave Solomon

391 **Seconded by:** Ben Sharpe

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

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

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

400 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

401

402 **Special Warrant Article 7**

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

406 **Motion to recommend by:** Assunta Ternullo

407 **Seconded by:** Dave Solomon

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

410 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

411

412 **Special Warrant Article 8**

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

417 **Motion to recommend by:** Ben Sharpe

418 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

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

421 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

422

423 **Special Warrant Article 9**

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

427 **Motion to recommend by:** Amanda Knight

428 **Seconded by:** Leslie Kruithof

429 **Discussion:** Assunta questioned what the money would be used for. Chief Devine noted they have used it  
430 to purchase apparatus (ambulance, fire truck). The current cost of a new fire truck is just shy of  
431 \$1,000,000. We have approximately \$300,000 in funds right now and they are trying to save for new  
432 equipment. The money can also be used for equipment repairs.

433

434 Steve Brown questioned the amount. Jon Goldman noted they did \$50,000 last year because they were  
435 adding staff and didn't want to add even more tax impact, but they want to try and get back on track.

436 Steve Brown wanted to make a motion to reduce the line by \$50,000. Lynne Blaisdell noted they didn't  
437 have the authority to do so.

438

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

441 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

442

**443 Special Warrant Article 10**

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

447 **Motion to recommend by:** Leslie Kruithof

448 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

449 **Discussion:** Dave Solomon questioned what this was for. Lynne noted it was to cover the costs for the  
450 consultant to complete the work for the MS4 permit, which is a federally mandated program. She also  
451 added that this year we have a requirement to implement a BMP project to mitigate runoff at one of the  
452 identified locations. We don't have the specific costs to do this first BMP, but it is estimated to be around  
453 \$25,000. There will be additional projects that need to be completed that will be significantly more  
454 expensive to implement. Tom Tombarello added that if we don't comply, we will be fined, which is very  
455 costly.

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

458 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

459

**460 Special Warrant Article 11**

461 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be  
462 added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax impact of this article is  
463 \$.02 per thousand.

464 **Motion to recommend by:** Steve Brown

465 **Seconded by:** Dave Solomon

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

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

471 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0**

472

**473 Special Warrant Article 12**

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

480 **Motion to recommend by:** Dave Solomon

481 **Seconded by:** Steve Brown

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

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

489 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-0**

490

491 **Special Warrant Article 13**

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

495 *Motion to recommend by:* Assunta Ternullo

496 *Seconded by:* Dave Solomon

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

499 *Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0*

500

501 **Warrant Article 14**

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

510 *Motion to recommend by:* Ben Sharpe

511 *Seconded by:* Leslie Kruithof

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

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

518 *Article recommended by the Budget Committee 4-2-0*

519

520 **Special Warrant Article 15**

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

524 *Motion to recommend by:* Amanda Knight

525 *Seconded by:* Leslie Kruithof

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

528 *Article recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-0*

529

530 **Special Warrant Article 16**

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

534 *Motion to recommend by:* Leslie Kruithof

535 *Seconded by:* Steve Brown

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

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

540 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 4-1-1**

541

542 **Warrant Article 17**

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

546 **Motion to recommend by:** Steve Brown

547 **Seconded by:** Ben Sharpe

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

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

552 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 4-1-1**

553

554 **Petitioned Warrant Article 18**

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

560 **Motion to recommend by:** Dave Solomon

561 **Seconded by:** Leslie Kruithof

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

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

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

573

574 **Petitioned Warrant Article 19**

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

576 **Motion to recommend by:** Assunta Ternullo

577 **Seconded by:** Leslie Kruithof

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

581

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

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

588

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

591

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

594 **Article recommended by the Budget Committee 1-5-0**

595

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

597

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

600

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

604

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

606

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

609

610 Dave Solomon made a motion to adjourn. Ben Sharpe seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at  
611 8:08pm.

612

613 **Submitted By:**

614

615 *Andrea Cairns*

616

617 Andrea Cairns

618 Assistant to the Town Administrator