

WARREN, NH
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2021

Moderator Robert Giuda called the meeting to order and opened Town Meeting at 9:00am with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short moment of thanks and reflection.

Motion made by Donald Bagley Sr, Seconded by Charles Chandler to recess Warren Town Meeting and open the deliberative session of the Warren School District Meeting at 9:03am. Warren Town Meeting returned from recess and called to order by Moderator Giuda at 9:35am.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF WARREN in the county of Grafton in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday March 13, 2021

Time: 9:00am

Location: Warren Village School

Article 01 Election of Town Officials

To bring in your votes to elect all town officers which appear on the official ballot for the ensuing year, as follows:

Selectboard	3 year term - Todd Bixby	177
Treasurer	1 year term - Sheila Foote	256
Chief of Police	1 year term - John Semertgakis	260
Road Agent	1 year term - John Corso	160
Planning Board Member	3 year term - Elizabeth Cornell	6
Cemetery Trustee	3 year term - Marie Spencer	9
Library Trustee	3 year term - Patricia Wilson	214
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 year term - Donna Hopkins	6
Supervisor of the Checklist	3 year term - Marlene Wright	20

Article 02 Hear and Accept Reports

To hear and accept the report of the Selectmen and other Town Officers and to vote on any subject relating thereto.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Sheila Foote

Discussion: Typographical error on Trustee of Trust Funds name on page 1 of the Town Report should be Heather Sackett (not Heath Sackett)

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 03 Reconstruction of Pine Hill Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred forty thousand dollars (\$240,000) for reconstruction of Pine Hill Road and to authorize withdrawal of fifty thousand (\$50,000) from the Paving Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose, and to authorize the issuance of not more than one hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$190,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; The Selectmen recommend this article (Yes 3, No 0). This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until Pine Hill has been reconstructed or December 31, 2023, whichever is sooner. (3/5 ballot vote required)

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: Selectboard prioritized each road in town by damage and amount of traffic and got quotes for repair for each road. The estimate is for reconstruction of Pine Hill Rd from Rte 25 to Jct of Swain Hill Rd and Gould Hill Rd, any culverts needing to be replaced will be included in this amount.

Moved by Charles Chandler, Seconded by Lesa Romano to conclude discussion and vote by paper ballot on this article. Town meeting will be recessed for 15 minutes to allow for voting, votes counted after one hour at 10:45am.

Disposition of Article: Passed (36 yes – 10 no)

Article 04 General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred forty seven thousand and seventeen dollars (\$347,017) for the following:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

a. Executive	67,301
b. Elections/Registration	19,425
c. Financial Administration	24,524
d. Tax Collector	20,625
e. Assessing Services	28,000

f. Legal Expenses	20,000
g. Personnel Administration	32,751
h. Planning Board	600
i. Buildings & Grounds	63,880
j. Cemeteries	18,500
k. Insurance	51,160
l. Town Clock	250
m. Contingency Fund	1

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: Elections/Registrations budget decreased because there are no additional elections this year. Clarification that the budget for Legal Expenses can be used to assist the Police Department if necessary.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 05 Advertising and Regional Associations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand six hundred fifty dollars (\$2,650) for the following:

ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

a. Advertising	500
b. NHMA	1,082
c. North Country Council	0
d. Pemi-Baker Solid Waste	688
e. Baker River Watershed Association	300
f. NH Assoc. of Assessing Officials	20
g. NH Tax Collectors Assn.	40
h. NH Town Clerks Assn.	20

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 06 Public Safety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty one thousand seven hundred and forty seven dollars (\$121,747) for the following:

PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Police Department	81,827
b. Fire Department	36,068
c. Emergency Management	3,501
d. Animal Control	1
e. E-911	350

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 07 Highways and Streets

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy three thousand seven hundred ninety dollars (\$173,790) for the following:

HIGHWAYS AND STREETS

a. Administration	54,885
b. Highways and Streets	50,600
c. Bridges	4,000
d. Vehicles & Equipment	47,604
e. Sub-contracted Work	3,000
f. Street Lights	8,500
g. Equipment Rental	5,000
h. Mileage	200
i. Other	1

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Lesa Romano

Amendment: To raise budget line item 4311-1a (Road Agent Wages) by Five Thousand dollars (\$5000) to Forty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$44,250) and lower budget line item 4311-1c (Overtime Wages) by Five Thousand dollars (\$5000) to One Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$1,500). Net effect on the Total for Warrant Article 07 b.) Highways and Streets remains unchanged.

Amendment Moved by: Charles Chandler

Amendment Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: Clarification on salary per legal counsel and state law: an elected official cannot be paid overtime, but is allowed compensatory time.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Amendment: To reduce by \$14,000 Vehicles and Equipment line item and use escape clause to get rid of the current Orange Chevrolet one ton truck.

Moved by: Arthur Heath

Second: Sharyn Washburn

Discussion: By special order to skip to and vote on Article 19 and 20 and return to Article 7. All in Favor

Town Meeting resumed and returned to Article 7 at 11:05am after voting on Articles 19 and 20 and after a 15 minute recess to count paper ballots for Article 3. Discussion continued on pros and cons of continuing the lease on the Orange Chevrolet one ton truck.

Disposition of Amendment: Failed

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Article 08 Sanitation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty one thousand, three hundred and forty two dollars (\$51,342) for the following:

SANITATION

a. Transfer Station Administration	19,061
b. Recycling	7,720
c. Solid Waste Collection/Compactor	21,960
d. Clean-Up/Monitoring/Tires	2,601

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 09 Non-profits/Health

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty three thousand one hundred ninety four dollars (\$63,194) for the following:

NON-PROFITS / HEALTH

a. Ammonoosuc Community Health Services (ACHS)	4,500
b. Warren Wentworth Food Pantry	1,000
c. WW Ambulance Services	43,872
d. Visiting Nurse & Hospice (VNH)	2,940
e. Grafton County Senior Citizens	2,000
f. Tri-County CAP	1,200
g. Warren Historical Society	2,100
h. Transport Central	82
i. Pemi-Baker Home Health & Hospice	4,000
j. Willing Worker's Society	1,500
k. Communities for Alcohol/Drug Free Youth (CADY)	0
l. The Bridge House	0
m. Mid-State Health Center	0
n. Good Shepherd Food Pantry	0
o. Court Appointed Advocates	0
p. Red Cross	0

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: Brief Status update on Warren-Wentworth Ambulance Service given by Charles Sackett

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 10 Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred and one dollars (\$3,501) for the following:

WELFARE

- a. Direct Assistance 1
- b. Vendor Payments 3,500

Moved by: Arthur Heath

Second: Lesa Romano

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 11 Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty one thousand four hundred forty eight dollars (\$51,448) for the following.

CULTURE AND RECREATION

- a. Parks and Recreation 4,430
- b. Library 37,318
- c. Patriotic Purposes: Old Home Days 9,200
- d. Flags 500

Nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$9,200) to come from the unassigned fund balance representing the amount raised for Old Home Day at Town Meeting 2020 and the remainder to come from taxation.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 12 Conservation/Debt Service

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty six dollars (\$15,946) for the following:

CONSERVATION

- a. Care of Trees 1

DEBT SERVICE

i. Principal - Bonds & Notes	14,791
ii. Interest - Bonds & Notes	1,152
iii. Interest on TAN	1
iv. Other Debt Service	1

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Sheila Foote

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 13 ETF/CRF Appropriations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$93,700) to be placed into the following Funds: The Selectmen recommend this appropriation, 3-0.

a. Fire Truck CRF	15,000
b. Highway Building Fund CRF	15,000
c. Highway Equipment CRF	5,000
d. Police Cruiser CRF	5,000
e. Missile CRF	500
f. Joseph Patch ETF	500
g. Community Development ETF	500
h. Paving Fund ETF	25,000
i. Major Road Projects ETF	1,000
j. Fire Department/Pub Safety CRF	25,000
k. Dam Maintenance Fund	1,000
L. Veteran's Memorial	200

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 14 Selectman Stipend Increase

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the purpose of increasing the annual selectmen stipend from \$1,400 to \$2,400 per Selectman per year. (Majority vote required)

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 15 Use of Revaluation CRF Funds

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000) for the 2021 Total Property Revaluation with said funds to come from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. No funds to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Lesa Romano

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 16 Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand two hundred and forty dollars (\$7,240) to be added to the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2020, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Fire Department 2020 budget. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0.

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 17 Maintaining Beech Hill Road Pavement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6000) for the purpose of completing preventative maintenance on Beech Hill Road with said funds to come from the Paving Expendable Trust Fund. This is a non-lapsing article. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0. (Majority vote required)

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Michael Panus

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 18 Reconstruction of Breezy Point Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of reconstructing a portion of Breezy Point Road by returning that portion of poorly paved road to gravel with said funds to come from the Major Road Projects Expendable Trust Fund. No funds to come from taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the road project is complete or by December 31, 2023, whichever is sooner. The selectmen recommend this article, 3-0.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Bryan Flagg

Discussion: The section of road in question is from beyond the junction of Pleasant View Road to the Forest Service Boundary with the Town and will be completed by the Town Road Agent. The entire section of road will not be returned to gravel.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 19 Highway Department Truck

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a five-year lease-purchase agreement for a 2021 International CV515 SFA for the Highway Department, for a total price of \$120,297, of which \$20,000 is to come from the anticipated trade-in value of the Highway Department's 2016 International, leaving a balance of \$100,297 to be paid under the agreement. The lease-purchase agreement contains an escape clause. Further to raise and appropriate a sum up to twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the first year's payment under the agreement. The Board recommends this article, 3-0.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Amendment: To authorize the selectman to seek three bids for new highway truck. Not to exceed \$120,000.00 and to use old truck as trade if needed. Make and model to be determined by selectman and new road agent jointly to best meet our needs.

Moved by: Michael Panus

Second: Lesa Romano

Discussion: What the needs of the road agent are to successfully maintain town roads

Disposition of Amendment: Amendment withdrawn by originator Michael Panus.

Moved to Table Article by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Disposition of Tabled Article: Passed

Article 20 Repair of the 2016 International Highway Dept. Truck

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ~~twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000)~~ Forty-Nine Thousand dollars (\$49,000) for the purpose of repairing ~~the 2016 International Highway Department Truck~~ the 2016 International Highway Department Truck AND any other Town Highway Equipment. (Majority vote required)

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: Opinions given of amounts needed for repair of this truck.

Amendment: To increase the sum by Twenty-Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000) to Forty-Nine Thousand dollars (\$49,000) for the purpose of repairing the 2016 International Highway Department Truck AND any other town highway equipment.

Amendment Moved by: Christopher Whitcher

Amendment Seconded by: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

15 Minute Recess called at 10:45am to count paper ballots cast for Article 3 and before returning to vote on Article 7

Article 21 Town Hall Repairs

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ~~four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500)~~ Five Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$5,500) for the purpose of replacing the entrance doors and fixing the handicap ramp and deck at the Warren Town Hall and authorize the withdrawal of ~~two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)~~ Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) from the Town Hall Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) is to come from general taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until Town Office renovations have been complete or by December 31, 2023. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0. (Majority vote required)

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Sheila Foote

Amendment: To increase Article 21 by One Thousand dollars (\$1,000) to Five Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$5,500) with additional the funds coming from the Town Hall Capital Reserve Fund.

Amendment moved by: Michael Panus

Amendment Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Article 22 Town Office Renovations

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ~~eight thousand eight hundred dollars (\$8,800)~~ Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$10,800) for the purpose of renovating the Town Office to create additional office spaces. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until Town Office renovations have been complete or by December 31, 2023. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Sheila Foote

Amendment: To increase Article 22 by Two Thousand dollars (\$2,000) to Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$10,800) for the purpose of installing a fire alarm system in the town office building.

Amendment Moved by: Arthur Heath

Amendment Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Article 23 Cemetery Maintenance

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of cemetery maintenance with said funds to come from the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund. No funds to come from taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until cemetery maintenance is complete or by December 31, 2023, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0.

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 24 Complete SCBA Replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-seven thousand two hundred and sixty dollars (\$127,260) for the purpose of complete replacement of 14 SCBA equipment units, with one hundred twenty thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven dollars (\$120,897) from grants, eight hundred sixty-one dollars (\$861) to come from the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund and five thousand five hundred and two dollars (\$5,502) to come from the unassigned fund balance. No funds to be raised by taxation. This article is contingent upon receipt of the above grant. This article is non-lapsing until December 31, 2023. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0.

Moved by: Arthur Heath

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 25 Baker River Name Change

To see if the Town will vote approve changing the name of the Baker River in Warren to the Asquamchumaukee River.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Lesa Romano

Discussion: A brief history of the origin of the Asquamchumaukee name and the 11,000 years of Abenaki history in our area. Suggestion of a By-Way interest sign being erected with a historical notation of the Asquamchumakee River name.

Disposition of Article: Failed (Motion failed on a tie with a show of hands)

Article 26 Authorization to Participate in Communication Dist

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to participate in the formation of a communication district if deemed reasonable by the Board of Selectmen.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: NH Legislation allows for towns to join together as a district in order to expand and enable residents within the towns to procure and receive high speed internet. Voters will retain the right to vote for or against the selectmen joining a district and/or moving forward with any further actions.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 27 Road Agent Position Change from Elected to Appoint

To See if the Town will vote to change the position of Road from elected to appointed beginning in March, 2022.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed by Paper Ballot (38 yes – 9 no – 1 blank)

Article 28 Conduct any other business

Article 28 Conduct any other business

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Lesa Romano and Bruce Dimond were thanked for their service to the town as elected Selectman and Road Agent respectively.

No rabies clinic will be sponsored by the Fire Department this spring due to COVID-19 concerns.

Nancy Chandler was remembered for her contributions to the town.

Motion to Adjourn made at 12:05pm

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley, Sr

All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted



Suzanne Flagg, Town Clerk