

WARREN, NH

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2023

Moderator Lesa Romano 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 given by Fred Delman.

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 9:05am. Warren Town Meeting returned from recess and called to order by Moderator Romano at 10:40am.

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 14, 2023

Time: 9:00am

Location: Warren Town Hall

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 YR TERM – Shirley McCartin
TREASURER	1 YR TERM – Sheila Foote
TAX COLLECTOR	2 YR TERM – Maria Sanders
CHIEF OF POLICE	1 YR TERM – John Semertgakis
PLANNING BOARD	3 YR TERM – Jay Johnson
PLANNING BOARD	3 YR TERM – Tom McGuy
CEMETERY TRUSTEE	3 YR TERM – Marlene Wright
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 YR TERM – Donna Campbell
TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS	3 YR TERM – Heather Sackett

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: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: Permission to grant Town Administrator Austin Albro to speak at the meeting and answer and questions that may arise.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 03 Adopt Floodplain Management Ordinance Amendments

To vote to see if the Town is in favor of adopting the revised Floodplain Management Ordinance as proposed by the planning board, necessary to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Moved by: Charles Sackett

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed by Ballot Vote (75 yes – 7 No)

Article 04 General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred seventy-six thousand six hundred and fifty-two dollars (\$376,652) for the following:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

a. Executive	79,402
b. Elections/Registration	19,501
c. Financial Administration	26,966
d. Tax Collector	20,115
e. Assessing Services	20,000
f. Legal Expenses	15,000
g. Personnel Administration	35,501
h. Planning Board	600
i. Buildings & Grounds	81,810
j. Cemeteries	18,500
k. Insurance	59,006
l. Town Clock	250
m. Contingency Fund	1

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Sheila Foote

Discussion: Last year's budget was less than this year's and not all of the budget money was spent last year; an explanation was given why there is an increase in the budget from last year.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 05 Advertising and Regional Associations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred and twelve (\$3,512) for the following:

ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

a. Advertising	500
b. NHMA	1,137
c. North Country Council	900
d. Pemi-Baker Solid Waste	800

e. NH Assoc. of Assessing Officials	20
f. NH Tax Collectors Assn	40
g. NH Town Clerks Assn	20
h. NH Health Officers Assn	25
i. NHGFOA	70

Moved by: Arthur Heath

Second: Charles Sackett

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 thirty-three thousand two hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$133,257)~~ one hundred thirty-one thousand two hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$131,257) one hundred twenty-six thousand four hundred fifty nine dollars (\$126,459) for the following:

PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Police Department	84,347 79,549
b. Fire Department	45,058 43,058
c. Emergency Management	3,501
d. Animal Control	1
e. E-911	350

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley, Sr

Amendment: To reduce line b. Fire Department appropriation by \$2,000 from \$45,058 to \$43,058 and reduce the total from \$133,257 to \$131,257.

Moved by: Victoria Saucier

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Reduction of \$2,000 will be offset and donated directly back to the organization by Appleknockers.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Amendment: To reduce line a. Police Department appropriation by \$4,798 from \$84,347 to \$79,549 and reduce total of Article 6 from \$131,257 to \$126,459.

Moved by: Robert Giuda

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Money spent on OHRV enforcement is only billed to the town if a Fish and Game/OHRV Grant has been received to offset the cost.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Article 07 Highways and Streets

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixteen thousand two hundred ninety-two dollars (\$216,292) for the following:

HIGHWAYS AND STREETS

a. Administration	64,360
b. Highways and Streets	60,000
c. Bridges	3,100
d. Vehicles & Equipment	49,631
e. Sub-contracted Work	30,000
f. Street Lights	8,500
g. Equipment Rental	500
h. Mileage	200
i. Other	1

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 08 Sanitation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-one thousand eight hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$61,829) for the following:

SANITATION

a. Transfer Station Administration	24,698
b. Recycling	7,720
c. Solid Waste Collection/Compactor	26,810
d. Clean-Up/Monitoring/Tires	2,601

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

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 ~~one hundred thirty-two thousand six hundred thirty-six dollars (\$132,636)~~ ~~one hundred twenty-eight thousand five hundred eleven dollars (\$128,511)~~ one hundred twenty-six thousand five hundred eleven dollars (\$126,511) for the following:

NON-PROFITS / HEALTH

a. Ammonoosuc Community Health Services (ACHS)	4,500
b. Warren Wentworth Food Pantry	950 1,200

c. WW Ambulance Services	405,000	103,000
d. Visiting Nurse & Hospice (VNH)	2,940	
e. Grafton County Senior Citizens	2,500	
f. Tri-County CAP	1,650	
g. Warren Historical Society	2,500	
h. Transport Central	500	
i. Pemi-Baker Home Health & Hospice	4,099	
j. Willing Worker's Society	2,500	
k. White Mountain Mental Health	1,122	
l. The Bridge House	2,000	0
m. Good Shepherd Food Pantry	825	0
n. Court Appointed Advocates	1,000	0
o. Voices Against Violence	550	0

Moved by: Arthur Heath

Second: Charles Chandler

Amendment: To increase b. Warren Wentworth Food Pantry from \$950 to \$1,200 and reduce line items l. The Bridge house from \$2,000 to 0, m. Good Shepherd Food Pantry from \$825 to 0, n. Court Appointed Advocates from \$1000 to 0, o. Voices Against Violence from \$550 to 0 and the total of Article 9 from \$132,636 to \$128,511

Moved by: Sheila Foote

Second: Robert Giuda

Discussion: Donation money being kept locally, selectmen submit to the voters all donation requests if the organization submits required report and documentation to the selectmen.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Amendment: To decrease c. WW Ambulance Services by \$2,000 from \$105,000 to \$103,000 and the total of Article 9 from \$128,511 to \$126,511.

Moved by: Victoria Saucier

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Reduction of \$2,000 will be offset and donated directly back to the organization by Appleknockers.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended 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: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Charles Chandler

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-four thousand five hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$54,598)~~ fifty-three thousand five hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$53,598) for the following.

CULTURE AND RECREATION

a. Parks and Recreation	5,200
b. Library	39,548
c. Patriotic Purposes: Old Home Days	9,200 8,200
d. Flags	650

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Amendment: To reduce line item c. Patriotic Purposes: Old Home Days by \$1,000 from \$9,200 to \$8,200 and total of Article 11 from \$54,598 to \$53,598.

Moved by: Victoria Saucier

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Reduction of \$1,000 will be offset and donated directly back to the organization by Appleknockers.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Amendment: To appropriate \$650 (line item c-1) for Art Supplies/Materials to distribute for patriotic projects. (i.e. school, library, etc)

Moved by: Justin Monninger

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: What Patriotic Purposes money is currently being spent on, Distribution of flags within the town, including flags on veteran's grave stones.

Disposition of Amendment: Failed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended 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-seven dollars (\$15,947) for the following:

CONSERVATION

a. Care of Trees	1
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DEBT SERVICE

i. Principal - Bonds & Notes	15,622
ii. Interest - Bonds & Notes	322
iii. Interest on TAN	1
iv. Other Debt Service	1

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Norman Roulx

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 seventy-six thousand nine hundred dollars (\$76,900) to be placed into the following funds. The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

a. Fire Truck CRF	5,000
b. Highway Building Fund CRF	15,000
c. Highway Equipment CRF	5,000
d. Police Cruiser CRF	5,000
e. Missile CRF	200
f. Bridges CRF	2,500
g. Town Hall CRF	2,000
h. Paving Fund ETF	25,000
i. Major Road Projects ETF	1,000
j. Fire Department/Pub Safety CRF	15,000
k. Dam Maintenance ETF	1,000
L. Veteran's Memorial ETF	200

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: Description of \$1000 appropriated for Dam Maintenance

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 14 Brush Hog Mower Purchase

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the purchase of a walk behind brush hog.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: Amount of brush hogging being done in town, rental vs buying options

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 15 Start Common Irrigation Project

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the purpose of beginning the irrigation project for the

Town Common.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: Water from the contaminated S.Main Street Water District well will be used.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 16 Fire Department Fund Deposit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ~~one thousand eight hundred and forty four (\$1,844)~~ seven thousand one hundred seventy dollars (\$7,170) to be added to the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Fire Department 2022 budget. The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

Moved by: Arthur Heath

Second: Charles Chandler

Amendment: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand one hundred seventy dollars (\$7,170) to be added to the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Fire Department 2022 budget.

Moved by: Arthur Heath

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Additional money that was not spent by the Fire Department last year from Article 25 added to Article 16.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Motion Made to Change the Order of Articles and Vote on Article 25 before returning to Article 18.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Seconded by: Donald Bagley

Disposition of Motion: Passed

Article 17 Emergency Management Fund Deposit

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand (\$3000) to be added to the Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Emergency Management 2022 budget. The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 18 Cemetery Fund Deposit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred seventy-three dollars (\$3,573) to be added to the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Cemetery 2022 budget. The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 19 To Pave Batchelder Brook Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-six thousand dollars (\$26,000) for the purpose of paving a 1" overlay on Batchelder Brook Road.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 20 To Pave Pine Hill Road

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-six thousand dollars (\$86,000) ~~for the purpose of paving a 1" overlay on Pine Hill Road.~~ to be applied to the Major Road Projects Non-Capital Reserve Fund.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Bryan Flagg

Amendment: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-six thousand dollars (\$86,000) to be applied to the Major Road Projects Non-Capital Reserve Fund.

Moved by: Robert Giuda

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Money can then be deposited into the Non-Capital Reserve fund and used if the Pine Hill project isn't finished this year or as needed by other road projects.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Article 21 Engage Professional Grant Writing Services

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of engaging professionals to assist the Town project development, grant writing, project management, and grant management with said funds to come from the Community Development Expendable Trust Fund. No funds to come from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: There was no success in finding a grant writer last year and money raised last year was not used.

Amendment: Any funds paid by the grant to the grant writer will be reimbursed to the town up to the amount paid by the town to the grant writing entity

Moved by: Robert Giuda

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amendment: Failed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 22 Creation of Town Webpage

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of creating a new Town webpage with said funds to come from the Community Development Expendable Trust Fund. No funds to come from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: Update appearance of current website and ability to offer town requests/services through direct website links.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 23 Town Hall Deck Replacement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of replacing the Town Hall deck.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Sheila Foote

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 24 Pump Repair Engine #2

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of repairing the pump on Engine #2.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Bryan Flagg

Amendment: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of repairing the pump on Engine #2 with any additional costs to come from Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund.

Moved by: Robert Giuda

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Explanation of the problems with the pump, pump will be replaced if cost of a rebuild is more than a new pump.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Article 25 Purchase of Fire Department Equipment

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand three hundred twenty-six dollars (\$5,326) for the purpose of purchasing fire department equipment with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2022, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Fire Department 2022 budget. The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3 to 0.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley

Move to Table Article: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley

Disposition to Table Article: Passed

Return to Article 17

Article 26 Complete Town Hall Floor Refinishing

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) for the purpose of completing the Town Hall floor refinishing project.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Sheila Foote

Discussion: Completion of the project will be applying an additional coat to the main floor and refinishing the stage and foyer.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 27 Re-Adoption of All Veterans Tax Credit

Shall the town readopt the ALL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans tax credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28

Moved by: Charles Sackett

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 28 Re-Adoption of Optional Veterans Tax Credit

Shall the town readopt the OPTIONAL VETERANS TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500?

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Charles Sackett

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 29 Modify Warren's Elderly Exemption

Shall the town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Warren, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$15,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$20,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$25,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$25,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than

\$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 30 Week's Crossing Dam Acquisition

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the transfer of ownership from the State of NH, Department of Environmental Services, to the Town, the dam known as the "Weeks Crossing Dam," which was rebuilt by the State in 2021, at the outlet of Weeks Crossing Pond, located on the northeastern side of Gould Hill Road, including all easements, flowage rights, and associated rights and appurtenances as necessary to operate and maintain the dam.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Robert Giuda

Discussion: Weeks Crossing Pond is used as an emergency water supply by Fire Departments. There is a "v" shaped crack apparent in the dam, the state was in Warren to view the dam two months ago and did not note anything that needed attention or repair.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 31 Conduct any other business

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

Moved by: Donald Bagley

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Appleknockers was thanked profusely for donations made to various organizations to reduce the tax burden. Moderator Romano was applauded for an outstanding job in her first year as moderator. Austin Albro was recognized for doing a thorough job in all his tasks as administrator and for going above and beyond to assist the town.

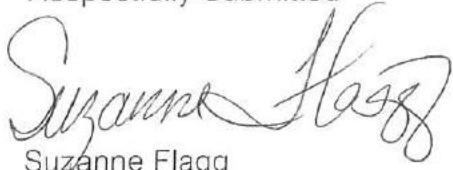
Motion to Adjourn made at 1:35pm

Moved by: Donald Bagley

Second: Charles Chandler

All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Flagg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Suzanne Flagg
Warren Town Clerk