

WARREN, NH TOWN MEETING MINUTES MARCH 12, 2024

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 Dehman.

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 Romano at 9:47am. Moved by Donald Bagley Sr, Seconded by Arthur Heath to dispense with reading the entire warrant before proceeding with voting on the articles.

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:

First Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

Date: March 12, 2024

Location: Warren Town Hall

Details: Polls open at 9:00am and will stay open until at least 7:00pm

Second Session of Annual Meeting (Transaction of All Other Business)

Date: March 12, 2024

Location: Warren Town Hall

Details: Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the Warren Town Hall beginning at 9:00am

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

MODERATOR - 2 YR TERM

TREASURER - 1 YR TERM

CHIEF OF POLICE - 1 YR TERM

PLANNING BOARD - 3 YR TERM

CEMETERY TRUSTEE - 3 YR TERM

LIBRARY TRUSTEE - 3 YR TERM

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS - 3 YR TERM

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST - 6 YR TERM

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

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: Robert Giuda

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Moved by Donald Bagley Sr, Seconded by Robert Giuda to grant Town Administrator Austin Albro to speak and/or answer any questions during the meeting.
All in Favor

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 03 General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred one thousand seven hundred and eleven dollars (\$401,711) dollars for the following:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

a. Executive	88,053
b. Elections/Registration	21,726
c. Financial Administration	26,891
d. Tax Collector	21,401
e. Assessing Services	25,000
f. Legal Expenses	10,000
g. Personnel Administration	39,001
h. Planning Board	650
i. Buildings & Grounds	82,940
j. Cemeteries	18,500
k. Insurance	67,298
l. Town Clock	250
m. Contingency Fund	1

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Sheila Foote

Amendment: To reduce Article 03 from \$401,711 to \$380,711

Moved by: Peter Boncek

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: Explanation that budgets were presented by department heads and discussed in selectmen meetings and February budget hearings. The amendment encompasses too many areas to be appropriate. Any money raised and not used is returned back to the town's general fund at the end of the year. Question called

Disposition of Amendment: Failed

Discussion: Question called

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 04 Advertising and Regional Associations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand nine hundred fifty-nine (\$3,959) for the following:

ADVERTISING & REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

a. Advertising	500
b. NHMA	1,159
c. North Country Council	945
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
j. Baker River Watershed Assn.	350 0
k. NH Local Welfare Admin Assn.	30

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Sheila Foote

Amendment: To reduce (j) Baker River Watershed Assn. from \$350 to \$0 and the total of Article 04 from \$3,959 to \$3,609

Moved by: Donna Hopkins

Second: Jeffrey Donnell

Amendment Discussion: No measurable E.Coli has ever been detected in the Baker River in Warren. River water testing is done once a month in June, July and August. Summer populations have increased that could impact the health of the river and should be monitored.

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Article 05 Public Safety

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-eight thousand eight hundred twenty-one dollars (\$128,821) for the following:

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Moved by: Donald Bagley

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 06 Highways and Streets

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred nineteen thousand and eighty-one dollars (\$219,081) for the following:

HIGHWAYS AND STREETS

a. Administration	66,440
b. Highways and Streets	60,000
c. Bridges	3,100
d. Vehicles & Equipment	49,840
e. Sub-contracted Work	30,000
f. Street Lights	9,000
g. Equipment Rental	500
h. Mileage	200
i. Other	1

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley Sr

Discussion: Explanation of what projects are being considered for (e) Sub-contracted work

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 07 Sanitation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-nine thousand nine hundred fifty-six dollars (\$69,956) for the following:

SANITATION

a. Transfer Station Administration	32,200
b. Recycling	7,720
c. Solid Waste Collection/Compactor	26,810
d. Clean-Up/Monitoring/Tires	3,226

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: The town can apply to be released from mandated monitoring of the site by the State of NH in 2031. Since 2006, the testing of the site has shown no negative impacts.

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 08 Non-profits/Health

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ~~one hundred sixty four thousand five hundred thirty four dollars (\$164,534)~~ one hundred fifty-five thousand three hundred fifty-three (155,353) 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	138,553
d. Visiting Nurse & Hospice (VNH)	2,940 1,000
e. Grafton County Senior Citizens	2,500 1,000
f. Tri-County CAP	4,650 1,000
g. Warren Historical Society	2,800
h. Transport Central	500
i. Pemi-Baker Home Health & Hospice	4,094 2,000
j. Willing Worker's Society	2,500
k. White Mountain Mental Health	1,122 500
m. Good Shepherd Food Pantry	825 0
n. Court Appointed Advocates	1,000 0
o. Voices Against Violence	550 0

Moved by: Donald Bagley

Second: Arthur Heath

Amendment 1: To reduce line (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 08 from \$164,534 to \$162,159.

Moved by: Sheila Foote

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: No money has been given to Good Shepherd Food Pantry, Court Appointed Advocates, Voices Against Violence for several years. All requests for

donation letters submitted to the selectmen are included to allow residents to decide.

Disposition of Amendment 1: Passed

Amendment 2: To reduce Article 08 from \$162,159 to \$144,853 and only funding (b) Warren Wentworth Food Pantry, (c) WW Ambulance Services, (g) Warren Historical Society, (j) Willing Workers Society

Moved by: Peter Boncek

Second: Arthur Heath

Discussion: Numerous questions asked where people would receive services that donations are no longer being given.

Disposition of Amendment 2: Failed

Discussion: Motion made by Robert Giuda, Seconded by Charles Chandler to split the Article and vote on each line item individually.

a. Ammonoosuc Community Health Services (ACHS)

Moved by: Robert Giuda

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Line Item A: Passed

b. Warren Wentworth Food Pantry

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Bryan Flagg

Discussion: None

Disposition of Line Item B: Passed

c. WW Ambulance Services

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley

Discussion: None

Disposition of Line Item C: Passed

d. Visiting Nurses & Hospice (VNH)

Moved by: Donald Bagley

Second: Charles Chandler

Amendment: To reduce line item from \$2940 to \$1000

Moved by: Robert Giuda

Second: Sheila Foote

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Line Item D: Passed

e. Grafton Country Senior Citizens

Moved by: Jeremy Hair

Second: Sheila Foote

Amendment: To reduce line item from \$25000 to \$1000

Moved by: Robert Giuda

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amendment: Passed

Discussion: None
Disposition of Amended Line Item E: Passed

f. Tri-County Cap

Moved by: Donald Bagley
Second: Charles Chandler
Amendment: To reduce line item from \$1650 to \$1000
Moved by: Robert Giuda
Second: Charles Chandler
Discussion: None
Disposition of Amendment: Passed
Discussion: None
Disposition of Amended Line Item F: Passed

g. Warren Historical Society

Moved by: Robert Giuda
Second: Donald Bagley Sr
Discussion: None
Disposition of Line Item G: Passed

h. Transport Central

Moved by: Charles Chandler
Second: Robert Giuda
Discussion: None
Disposition of Line Item H: Passed

i. Pemi-Baker Home Health & Hospice

Moved by: Charles Chandler
Second: Sheila Foote
Amendment: To reduce line item from \$4094 to \$2000
Moved by: Robert Giuda
Second: Jeffrey Tompkins
Discussion: None
Disposition of Amendment: Passed
Discussion: None
Disposition of Amended Line Item I: Passed

j. Willing Worker's Society

Moved by: Donald Bagley
Second: Robert Giuda
Discussion: None
Disposition of Line Item J: Passed

k. White Mountain Mental Health

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr
Second: Arthur Heath
Amendment: To reduce line item from \$1122 to \$500
Moved by: Robert Giuda
Second: Charles Chandler
Discussion: None
Disposition of Amendment: Passed
Discussion: None

Disposition of Amended Line Item K: Passed

Article 09 Welfare

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand and one dollars (\$5,001) for the following:

WELFARE

- a. Direct Assistance 1
- b. Vendor Payments 5,000

Moved by: Donald Bagley

Second: Sheila Foote

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 10 Culture and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand four hundred seventy-four dollars (\$50,474) for the following.

CULTURE AND RECREATION

- a. Parks and Recreation 5,200
- b. Library 35,424
- c. Patriotic Purposes: Old Home Days 9,200
- d. Flags 650

Moved by: Donald Bagley

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 11 Conservation/Debt Service

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five dollars (\$) for the following:

CONSERVATION

- a. Care of Trees 1

DEBT SERVICE

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

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Donald Bagley

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 12 ETF/CRF Appropriations

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred six thousand five hundred dollars (\$106,500) to be placed into the following funds. (The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 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	800
f. Bridges CRF	2,500
g. Town Hall CRF	2,000
h. Paving Fund ETF	25,000
i. Major Road Projects ETF	10,000
j. Fire Department/Pub Safety CRF	15,000
k. Dam Maintenance ETF	1,000
l. Veteran's Memorial ETF	200
m. Fire Department SCBA CRF	10,000

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Arthur Heath

Amendment 1: To Reduce (a) Fire Truck CRF from \$15,000 to \$1,000, Increase (i) Major road Projects EFT from \$10,000 to \$34,000, decrease (m) Fire Department SCBA CRF from \$10,000 to \$0. No change to the total dollar amount of Article 12.

Moved by: Jeffrey Donnell

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: Grant money only covered a portion of equipment and the equipment has a limited-use-life. Money being raised for Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds is a savings account to pay for future needs.

Disposition of Amendment 1: Failed

Amendment 2: To Reduce (a) Fire Truck CRF from \$15,000 to \$7,500 and (j) Fire Department/Pub Safety CRF from \$15,000 to \$7,500 and reduce total of Article 12 from \$106,500 to \$91,500.

Moved by: Sheila Foote

Second: Charles Chandler

Discussion: None

Disposition of Amendment 2: Failed

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 13 Start Common Irrigation Project

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the next phase of the irrigation project for the Town Common.

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr

Second: Bryan Flagg

Discussion: None

Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 14 Fire Department Fund Deposit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand five hundred thirty dollars (\$5,530) to be added to the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the

surplus of the Fire Department 2023 budget.
(The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3-0).

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr
Second: Arthur Heath
Discussion: None
Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 15 Emergency Management Fund Deposit

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand and one dollar (\$3001) to be added to the Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Emergency Management 2023 budget.
(The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3-0).

Moved by: Robert Giuda
Second: Arthur Heath
Discussion: None
Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 16 Cemetery Fund Deposit

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand ninety-five dollars (\$6,095) to be added to the Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance as of December 31, 2023, with no funds to be raised from taxation. This amount represents a portion of the surplus of the Cemetery 2023 budget.
(The Selectmen recommend this article by a vote of 3-0).

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr
Second: Charles Chandler
Discussion: None
Disposition of Article: Passed

Motion made by Charles Chandler, Seconded by Robert Giuda to recess for lunch break at 12:15pm

Article 17 Highway Truck Purchase

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a seven-year lease agreement in the amount not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the purpose of leasing a highway department truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

Moved by: Donald Bagley Sr
Second: Sheila Foote
Discussion: The truck this article will replace is currently operating and selectmen would recommend to rescind this article as written. The selectmen are unable to enter into an agreement unless voted on at a regular or special Town Meeting.
Amendment: To reduce the amount from \$40,000 to \$20,000 for the first year's payment.

Moved by: Robert Giuda
Second: Sheila Foote
Discussion: None
Disposition of Amendment: Passed
Disposition of Amended Article: Passed

Article 18 Full-Time to Part-Time Police Chief

To see if the Town will vote to revert the Warren Police Department current full-time position and wages, back to a part-time position and wages, beginning with the 2025 Police Chief term. (This article was submitted by petition).

Moved by: Arthur Heath
Second: Peter Boncek
Discussion: Pros & Cons of part-time vs full-time Department discussed. Question Called
Disposition of Article: Failed by Secret Ballot = (10) YES vs (50) NO

Article 19 Creation of Warren and Wentworth School Commission

To see if the town will vote to authorize a commission to study the efficacy of combining programs and services, up to and including a merger, of Warren and Wentworth schools. The commission would consist of 3 individuals from Warren. 1 appointment would be chosen by the selectboard, 1 appointment by the school board, and 1 appointment by the faculty/staff of Warren Village School. A matching warrant is being proposed to the voters in Wentworth for consideration at the Wentworth town meeting on 3-16-24. (This article was submitted by petition).

Moved by: Robert Giuda
Second: Charles Chandler
Discussion: None
Disposition of Article: Passed

Article 20 Conduct any other business

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

Todd Bixby was recognized for his service on the selectboard.

Motion to Adjourn made at 1:40pm

Moved by: Charles Chandler
Second: Donald Bagley Sr
Discussion: None
All in Favor

Warren Town Meeting Results of Voting on March 12, 2024

Selectboard – 3 years:
Peter Boncek – 56 votes
Jeremy Hair – 124 votes

Moderator – 2 years:
Lesa Romano – 165 votes

Treasurer – 1 year:
Sheila Foote – 168 votes

Chief of Police – 1 year:
John Semertgakis – 155 votes

Planning Board – 3 years:
Elizabeth Wilkin – 7 votes

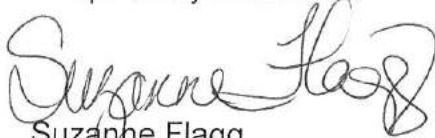
Cemetery Trustee – 3 years:
Kathleen Benassi – 127 votes
Donna Hopkins – 22 votes

Library Trustee – 3 years:
Cindy Bemis – 57 votes
Kathleen Benassi – 14 votes
Sheila Foote – 102 votes

Trustee of Trust Funds – 3 years:
Donna Hopkins – 161 votes

Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 years:
Marlene Wright – 174 votes

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne Flagg".

Suzanne Flagg
Warren Town Clerk