

**Town of Alexandria**  
**Minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> Deliberative Session**  
**February 6, 2016**

To the inhabitants of the town of Alexandria in the County of Grafton in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs are hereby notified and warned that the two phases of the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

*The Deliberative Session of the meeting was opened at 10:00 by Moderator Dennis Ford. Dennis welcomed everyone to the meeting, and stated that this is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year since Alexandria was incorporated. The rules of the meeting were given and the Selectboard was introduced, George Tuthill, Chairman, Robert Piehler and Michael Broome. The Articles will be read and opened for discussion. Resident registered voters are the only ones who may speak unless a vote is taken to allow a non-resident to speak. Voting will be by voice vote or hand vote if necessary. All comments need to be addressed to the Moderator. If a tie vote, the Moderator will always vote in the negative.*

*Vote taken to accept the rules...SO VOTED.*

Warrant read as followed:

**First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session)**

Date: Saturday, February 6, 2016

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Alexandria Town Hall, 45 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH

Details: This session shall consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the warrant articles numbered 1 through 14. The warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended; (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended; and (c) no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article; but an amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this subparagraph.

**Second Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)**

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Alexandria Town Hall, 45 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH

Details: Voting Session to act on all Warrant Articles as amended, including the proposed budget, as a result of the action of the "FIRST SESSION".

### **Article 01: Election of Public Officials**

Election of Public Officials, Newfound Area School District Items and other Articles appearing on the warrant as may be required by state law.

Motion made and seconded to move Article 1 to Warrant SO VOTED.

Article 2 read as follows:

### **Article 02: Budget of the Town**

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$1,503,290 (as recommended by the Selectmen)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,477,299, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles. Estimated tax impact \$7.351 per thousand based on the Selectmen's recommended budget before revenues.

*Motion made and seconded to amend the police budget by 10% by removing \$22,911.11 in the Police Department.*

*Motion made for permission to allow non-resident Chief Don Sullivan to explain leasing and other parts of the department budget. SO VOTED.*

*Some discussion follows: Amendment is defeated.*

*Chief Sullivan gave further explanation of the lease option of 3 years that would enable newer vehicle to be purchased with less expense on repairs etc. Some discussion followed.*

*Motion have Jennifer Dostie Admin Assistant to speak...SO VOTED. More discussion followed.*

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 2 to the Warrant...SO VOTED.*

*Article 3 read as followed: Opened for discussion:*

### **Article 03: New Highway Department Truck**

To see if the municipality will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a 7 year lease agreement for \$180,000 for the purpose of leasing a new dump truck for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Recommended by the Selectmen). (Estimated tax impact \$0.137 per thousand)

*A question was raised as to what equipment is really needed. Road Agent Jeff Cantara spoke about what is needing replacement and as for one over the other, a truck is more important than the backhoe.*

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 3 to the Warrant. SO VOTED.*

*Article 4 read as follows:*

#### **Article 04: New Highway Department Backhoe**

To see if the municipality will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a 7 year lease agreement for \$130,000 for the purpose of leasing a new backhoe for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Recommended by the Selectmen). (Estimated tax impact \$0.099 per thousand)

*A question was brought up as to what will happen to the old backhoe, Road Agent Jeff Cantara stated that it potentially will go to the Transfer Station. Jeff also explained that the town is spending a large amount of money on repairs and upkeep of old equipment and then losing money on the resale when equipment is disposed of.*

*Motion made to move Article 4 to Warrant SO VOTED.*

*Article 5 read as follows:*

#### **Article 05: Paving**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 for the repair and maintenance of paved roads? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Estimated tax impact \$0.391 per thousand)

*Some discussion follows. The Road Agent spoke again, stating, if the paved roads are not repaired and maintained they will eventually revert back to dirt roads.*

*Motion made to move Article 5 to Warrant. SO VOTED*

*Article 6 read as follows:*

#### **Article 06: Brook Road Bridge**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$93,000 to repair a bridge on Brook Road. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance with no amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Estimated tax impact \$0.00 per thousand)

*Open for discussion...Minimal discussion followed. This is a red listed bridge with serious issues.*

*Motion made to move Article 6 to Warrant: SO VOTED.*

*Article 7 Read as follows:*

#### **Article 07: Make Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department a Municipal Fire Department**

To see if the Town will vote to form a municipal fire department as per RSA 154:1, I(b), whereby the Fire Chief shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen; and the firefighters appointed by the Board of Selectmen upon recommendation of the Fire Chief, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,200 to fund the department. The Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to take what additional steps are legally necessary to effectuate the above transition. This Warrant Article shall become effective as of July 1, 2016. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Estimated tax impact \$0.206 per thousand)

*Some discussion follows. Motion made to permit Non Resident Fire Chief Mark Chevalier to speak...so VOTED.*

*Mark explained that in the last 10 years the expense to run a fire department have risen tremendously. Because income from fund raising events fluctuates too much to be a reliable source of income, the department needs more consistent help to cover increasing expenses. More discussion follows.*

*Motion made to move Article 7 to the Warrant...SO VOTED.*

Article 8 read as follows:

#### **Article 08: Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department**

If Warrant Article 07 does not pass, shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,900 for the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department for the provision of firefighting and prevention services and to continue the lease of the 1999 International Tanker and the 2012 Ford F550 to the AVFD, all pursuant to an agreement between the Town and AVFD? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Estimated tax impact \$0.102 per thousand)

*No Discussion follows.*

*Motion made to move article 8 to Warrant. SO VOTED.*

Article 9 read as follows:

#### **Article 09: Highway Department Capital Reserve**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be put into the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by Selectmen) (Estimated tax impact \$0.147 per thousand)

*An amendment was presented for Article 9 to read as.. \$0 for the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund.*

*Discussion follows as to; there is so little interest earned on Capital reserve funds it is not worth it to put monies into an account that will not be able to be accessed this year and not until a Warrant article for its expense is presented. The funding will not be needed if the town begins leasing equipment instead of purchasing.*

*Voice vote on Amendment... Amendment PASSES.*

*Motion made to move article 9 as amended to the Warrant...SO VOTED.*

*Article 10 read as follows:*

**Article 10: Fire Equipment Capital Reserve**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be put into the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by Selectmen) Estimated tax impact \$0.049 per thousand.

*Some discussion follows....there \$25,538.58 in the account now. Not available to use unless a warrant article allows.*

*Motion made to move Article 10 to Warrant. SO VOTED*

*Article 11 read as follows:*

**Article 11: Adopt Official Budget Committee**

To see if the Town will vote to establish an official budget committee per RSA 32:14. The official budget committee shall consist of seven (7) at-large members. The Moderator shall appoint these at-large members to serve until the next annual town meeting, RSA 669:17. The priority for these appointments given to current members of the Advisory Budget Committee. The formal election of members for staggered terms begins at the following annual meeting. RSA 32:15, III. This article presented by petition.

*Some discussion follows...it is a petition warrant article and possibly cannot be amended. There are some guidelines that must be followed with an official committee. Appointment would begin immediately ...and next year would be a full election to start a staggered year rotation.*

*Motion made to move Article 11 to Warrant: SO VOTED.*

*Article 12 read as follows:*

**Article 12: Haynes Library**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the Haynes Library Association for the repair of windows and other building improvements necessary for the library to remain in operation. This article presented by petition. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Estimated tax impact \$0.02 per thousand)

*Some discussion follows. Building need some repairs and paying for the cost insurance is becoming a hardship.*

*Motion made to move Article 12 to the Warrant. SO VOTED*

*Article 13 read as follows:*

**Article 13: Discontinue and Abolish Alexandria Police Department**

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue and abolish the existing Alexandria Police Department.  
This article is presented by petition.

Lengthy discussion follows...

Motion made to move the question. *SO VOTED.*

Motion made to move Article 13 to the Warrant. *SO VOTED*

A petitioned warrant Article cannot be removed from the Warrant.

Hand vote taken to move Article forward 19 yea...7 Nay....*So VOTED.*

Article 14 read as follows:

**Article 14: Transact any other business**

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

Some discussion follows on highway equipment issues.

Old Town Hall issues with front roof and furnaces. Roof has a contractor coming in the spring and the furnaces are OK for now.

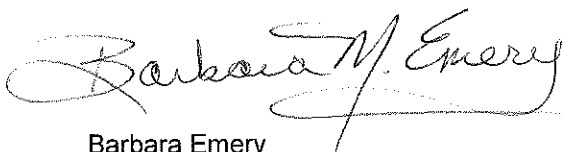
A question was brought up about getting a PA system or something like that would help the acoustics in the old town hall.

Motion made to adjourned *SO VOTED.* Adjourned at 12:10pm.

**Given under our hands, January \_\_, 2016**

We certify and attest that on or before January \_\_, 2016 we posted a true and attested copy of the within Warrant at the place of meeting, and like copies at the Alexandria Municipal Building, 47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH and delivered the original to the Town Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Emery

Town Clerk