

Town of Alexandria  
Minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> Deliberative  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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:

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

Date: Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

Details: This session shall consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the Warrant Articles number 1 through 15. 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 of 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 the Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting):**

Date: Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

Location: Alexandria Town Hall, 45 Washburn Rd, 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".

Deliberative session was held at Alexandria Town Hall with 36 registered voters present which included Town officials. The meeting was opened by Moderator Dennis Ford at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and a moment of silence was observed for Alexandria residents who have passed away. Dennis noted that this is the 236<sup>th</sup> year since Alexandria was incorporated. Dennis introduced town officials and the rules of the meeting were given.

*\*Motion made to accept the rules. SO VOTED*

**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.

*A vote taken to bring Article 01 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*No Discussion.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 01 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

**Article 02: Operating Budget**

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 \$1,683,246 (as recommended by the Budget Committee)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,597,384, 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 \$8.56 per thousand, before revenues, based on the Budget Committee's recommended budget. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee

*A vote taken to bring Article 02 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 02 was opened for discussion:*

*The amount of the 2018 default budget was called into question. A motion was made for Jennifer Dostie to speak. Motion Seconded. Jennifer explained that the 2018 default budget allows for legally obligated expenses such as contracts and services.*

*A motion was made by Frederick C. Platts "To amend Article #2 by 5% or \$84,162, the new total being \$1,599,084".*

**Article 02: Operating Budget (continued)**

*Motion Seconded by Bill Hall*

*Discussion: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the impact of the 2017 tax rate increase on taxpayers and department budgets.*

*A vote was taken to accept the amended motion. SO VOTED*

## **Article 02: Operating Budget (continued)**

“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 amended to \$1,599,084 (as recommended by the Budget Committee)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,597,384.”

*\*Motion made to move the Article 02 (as amended) forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

## **Article 03: New Highway Department Loader Lease**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a six year lease agreement for \$166,000 for the purpose of leasing a Loader for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. The full cost of the vehicle is \$206,000; the amount of the lease reflects trade-in value of the loader being replaced. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Estimated tax impact \$0.15). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen(3-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee(2-3-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 03 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 03 was opened for discussion*

*Jeff Cantara talked about the repairs needed for the loader.*

*A motion was made by Catherine Barrett to amend Article 03 “To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a six (6) year lease agreement for zero (\$0.00) dollars”.*

*Motion Seconded by Bill Hall*

*A discussion ensued both for and against entering into the six year lease.*

*A vote was taken to accept the amended motion. SO VOTED*

“To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a six year lease agreement for \$0.00 for the purpose of leasing a Loader for the Highway Department.”

*\*Motion made to move the Article 03 (as amended) forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

## **Article 04: Highway Department Truck Lease 2016**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,305 for the third of seven yearly payments for the lease of the 2016 dump truck for the Highway Department. This lease agreement was approved at the 2016 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. (Estimated tax impact \$0.14 per thousand) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 04 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 04 was opened for discussion:*

*A brief discussion ensued regarding leased vehicles. There was conversation as to whether such a small group of people should make decisions to eliminate warrant articles before they are moved to the ballot for vote.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 04 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

## **Article 05: Highway Department Backhoe Lease 2016**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,996 for the third of seven yearly payments for the lease of the 2016 Backhoe for the Highway Department. This lease agreement was approved at the 2016 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. (Estimated tax impact \$0.10 per thousand) Recommended by the Board of Selectmen(3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 05 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 05 was opened for discussion:*

*A discussion ensued regarding an incident that occurred with the backhoe.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 05 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

## **Article 06: Highway Department Truck Lease 2017**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,655 for the second of six yearly payments for the lease of the 2017 dump truck for the Highway Department. This lease agreement was approved at the 2017 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. (Estimated tax impact \$0.06 per thousand). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen(3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee(5-0-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 06 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 06 was opened for discussion.*

*No discussion.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 06 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

**Article 07: Fire Department Lease for Self-Contained Breathing**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,040 for the second of four yearly payments for the lease of twelve self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department. This lease agreement was approved at the 2017 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. (Estimated tax impact \$0.14 per thousand). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen(3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee(5-0-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 07 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 07 was opened for discussion.*

*No discussion.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 07 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

**Article 08: Sand Shed at Highway Department**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 construct a sand shed for the Highway Department. (Estimated tax impact \$0.64 per thousand). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee(3-2-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 08 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 08 was opened for discussion:*

*There was a brief discussion regarding the benefits of having an additional storage shed.*

*A motion was made by Catherine Barrett "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of zero (\$0.00) dollars to construct a sand shed for the highway department.*

*Motion seconded by Bill Hall.*

*A vote was taken to accept the amended motion by a hand vote. 15 yes – 12 no SO VOTED*

*"To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0.00 to construct a sand shed for the Highway Department."*

*\*Motion made to move Article 08 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

**Article 09: 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? (Estimated tax impact \$0.41 per thousand). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen(3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee(5-0-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 09 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 09 was opened for discussion:*

*A discussion ensued regarding the paving of roads. It was explained that this warrant article is to preserve and protect the roads which are already paved. There was an expressed displeasure regarding the absence of the road agent.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 09 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

**Article 10: Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be put into the Fire Department Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund? (Estimated tax impact \$0.05 per thousand). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen(3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee(3-2-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 10 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 10 was opened for discussion:*

*There was a discussion regarding the purpose of the fund. It was explained that the Town is trying to build up a fund for the fire department should these funds be needed. There was a discussion regarding the funds be expended within the year or if they could accumulate. An answer for this question was not provided during the meeting.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 10 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

**Article 11: Building Permit Ordinance**

In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Alexandria, the Selectmen have proposed adopting a building permit ordinance. Are you in favor of the adoption building permit ordinance as proposed by the Board of Selectmen? Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

*A vote taken to bring Article 11 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 11 was opened for discussion: It was stated that the Building Ordinance was never adopted properly. It was also stated that the building permit would be void after one year if the structure was not weatherized and which structures require weatherization. Dennis gave an explanation of paragraph 2b. It was suggested that a draft of the proposed Building Permit Ordinance be included in the Town report.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 11 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

### **Article 12: All Veterans' Tax Credit**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from service and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$270.00, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

*A vote taken to bring Article 12 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 12 was opened for discussion:*

*There was a brief discussion regarding who will receive the Veterans' Credit.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 12 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

### **Article 13: Property Exemption for Industrial Use**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:76, which would allow the Town to adopt a new property exemption for commercial or industrial use. The exemption shall apply only for municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality. The exemption does not apply to the state education property tax nor the county property tax. The exemption shall take effect in the year beginning April 1 following its adoption. The exemption will run for three years and be for 50% of the valuation. If adopted by the local legislative body, the percentage rate and duration of the exemption shall be granted uniformly within the Town to all projects for which a property application is filed. A vote adopting RSA 72:76 shall remain in effect for a maximum of five tax years; provided, however, that for any application which has already been granted prior to expiration of the five year tax period, shall continue apply at the rate and for the duration in effect at the time it was granted. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

*A vote taken to bring Article 13 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 13 was opened for discussion. The Selectmen explained how the tax exemption would work and it was Senator Guida who suggested the exemption. There was an expressed concern that more detailed information is needed before the Town moves forward with the warrant.*

*For clarification, it was suggested that the first sentence of Article 13 should be changed to:*

*"To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:76, which would allow the Town to adopt a property exemption for new commercial or industrial use. The exemption shall apply only for municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality. The exemption does not apply to the state education property tax nor the county property tax. The exemption shall take effect in the year beginning April 1 following its adoption. The exemption will run for three years and be for 50% of the valuation. If adopted by the local legislative body, the percentage rate and duration of the exemption shall be granted uniformly within the Town to all projects for which a property application is filed. A vote adopting RSA 72:76 shall remain in effect for a maximum of five tax years; provided, however, that for any application which has already been granted prior to expiration of the five year tax period, shall continue apply at the rate and for the duration in effect at the time it was granted."*

*\*Motion made to move Article 13 forward as worded to the warrant by a hand vote. 20 yes SO VOTED*

### **Article 14: Day Away Program**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for the Day Away Program located in the Lakes Region, a non-profit center for those people having Alzheimer or a related form of Dementia, whose purpose is to provide the caregiver a time of respite and help the participant to maintain their independence and encourage socialization. This article presented by petition. Recommended by the Budget Committee(5-0-2).

*A vote taken to bring Article 14 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 14 was opened for discussion:*

*Elizabeth Musheno, who is a volunteer for the program, gave an overview of the program and its benefits.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 14 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

### **Article 15: Newfound Hills Road Seasonally Maintained**

To see if the Town will approve Newfound Hills Road to become maintained by the Town of Alexandria for seasonal maintenance (not winter). Town work would include annual culvert maintenance, roadside weed/brush maintenance, road surface grading and emergency washout repair. This article presented by petition.

*A vote taken to bring Article 15 to the floor. SO VOTED*

*Article 15 was opened for discussion: It was mentioned that public money cannot be spent on private property.*

*\*Motion made to move Article 15 forward to the warrant. SO VOTED*

*\*Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted:



Francine M. Skiffington  
Town Clerk