

# TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA - 2018 VOTING GUIDE

This Guide has been prepared to provide you additional information for your voting decisions prior to entering the voting booth on Tuesday March 13, 2018. The Guide contains all of the articles as they were amended at Deliberative Session, some brief descriptions with additional information, and their estimated impact on the tax rate. Tax impact information listed has been provided to give voters an idea of what the individual items will cost, if approved by voters. The tax impact information is simply an estimate based on a current snapshot in time using information available today. However, the actual tax rate is not set until October by the NH Department of Revenue Administration (NHDRA).

The Town's Annual Report contains additional information including the proposed 2018 budget and revenues as well as finances and activities of the Town during the past year. The 2017 Annual Report will be available by March 6, 2018 in the Selectmen's Office, at the Transfer Station and online.

We hope this information is helpful for your understanding of the issues to be voted upon at the 2018 Voting Day.

If you have specific questions that might be answered before voting day, please feel free to call our office at 603-744-3220 or send an email to [alexandrianh@metrocast.net](mailto:alexandrianh@metrocast.net).

George Tuthill                      Chet Caron                      Robert Piehler  
 Alexandria Board of Selectmen

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

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2018

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".

**It's not too late to register to vote! You may also register to vote at the polls on voting day.**

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Applications for Absentee Ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office or on line at [sos.nh.gov](http://sos.nh.gov). Absentee ballots delivered through the mail or delivered by the voter's spouse, parent, sibling, or child shall be received by the town clerk not later than 5:00 pm on March 13th, 2018. Questions about Absentee Ballots should be addressed to the Town Clerk's Office at 744-3288 or via email at [alexctcoll@metrocast.net](mailto:alexctcoll@metrocast.net)

## 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.

Selectmen – 3 year term <i>Vote for no more than one</i> George Tuthill	Town Clerk/Tax Collector - 3 year term <i>Vote for no more than one</i> Francine Skiffington	Budget Committee – 3 year term <i>Vote for no more than two</i> *
Trustee of Trust Funds–3 year term <i>Vote for no more than one</i> Suzanne Cheney	Trustee of Cemeteries–3 year term <i>Vote for no more than one</i> Suzanne Cheney	Budget Committee – 2 year term <i>Vote for no more than two</i> *
Road Agent – 3 year term <i>Vote for no more than one</i> Jeff Cantara Michael Corliss	Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 yr term <i>Vote for no more than one</i> Loretta Brouillard	Planning Board – 3 year term <i>Vote for no more than two</i> Janet Towse Karen Demers Merry Ruggirello
Moderator – 2 year term (2020) <i>Vote for no more than one</i> *	<i>*No person signed up for Budget Committee or Moderator</i>	

Elected officials are required to take an oath of office within 6 days of being notified, in accordance with RSA 42:4. All officials elected on March 13<sup>th</sup> will need to contact the Town Clerk at 603-744-3288 to schedule time to take their oath.

## Article 02: Operating 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 \$1,599,084 (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 \$8.13 per thousand, before revenues, based on the Budget Committee's recommended budget. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee.

*NOTE: The Budget Committee proposed a budget of \$1,683,246. At the First Deliberative Session on 2/10/18, an amendment passed to decrease the operating budget by \$84,162. A "yes" vote would approve an operating budget of \$1,599,084; a "no" vote would pass the default budget of \$1,597,384. The operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles.*

*The estimated tax impact shown on the warrant article for the proposed operating budget would be \$8.13 per thousand before factoring in the estimated revenues for 2018. After factoring in the estimated revenues for 2018 (\$602,800), the estimated tax impact would be \$5.07 per thousand. This amount includes only the town operating budget and does not include the cost of any of the other warrant articles, the county tax paid to Grafton County, the state school tax, or the local education tax paid to Newfound Area School District.*

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

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? (Estimated tax impact \$0 per thousand). Recommended by the Board of Selectmen(3-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee(2-3-2).

*NOTE: The original article in the 2018 Town Warrant reads: 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)*

*At the First Deliberative Session on 2/10/18, a motion passed to amend the article to read "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a six (6) year lease agreement for zero (0) dollars for the purpose of leasing a loader for the highway department." A "yes" vote to this warrant and article and a "no" vote to this warrant article will both result in the town not entering a lease for a new loader.*

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

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).

*NOTE: A "yes" vote would authorize the expenditure of \$28,305 for the third of seven yearly lease payments for the 2016 dump truck used by the highway department. A "no" vote would terminate the lease agreement and the truck would be returned to the leasing company.*

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

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).

*NOTE: A "yes" vote would authorize the expenditure of \$19,996 for the third of seven yearly lease payments for the 2016 backhoe used by the highway department. A "no" vote would terminate the lease agreement and the backhoe would be returned to the leasing company.*

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

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).

*NOTE: A "yes" vote would authorize the expenditure of \$12,655 for the second of six yearly lease payments for the 2017 dump truck used by the highway department. A "no" vote would terminate the lease agreement and the truck would be returned to the leasing company.*

**Article 07: Fire Department Lease of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus**

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).

*NOTE: A "yes" vote would authorize the expenditure of \$28,040 for the second of four yearly lease payments for the twelve self-contained breathing apparatus for the fire department. A "no" vote would terminate the lease agreement and the twelve SCBA would be returned to the leasing company.*

**Article 08: New Sand Shed for the Highway Department**

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

*NOTE: The original article from the 2018 Town Warrant reads: 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).*

*At the First Deliberative Session held on 2/10/18, a motion passed to amend the article to "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." A "yes" vote and a "no" vote will both result in the sand shed not being constructed.*

**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).

*NOTE: In 2014, an inventory of conditions of the town's roads confirmed that most of our paved roads were in poor condition. In 2015, the town began a multiyear paving improvement process. This warrant article would continue that program. A "yes" vote would authorize the expenditure of \$80,000 for the repair and maintenance to paved roads in Town.*

**Article 10: Fire Department 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).

*NOTE: The Fire Department Maintenance Expendable Trust fund was established in 2017 for the maintenance and upkeep of the Fire Department vehicles and equipment. The monies put into this fund are nonlapsing. In 2017, \$10,000 was used to open this fund. A "yes" vote will authorize the deposit of \$10,000 into the fund. A "no" vote will result in no money being deposited into the fund.*

**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 of a building permit ordinance as proposed by the Board of Selectmen? Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

*NOTE: A "yes" vote approves the adopting the building permit ordinance as shown below. This ordinance was originally voted on without going through the proper public hearing process. The purpose of this Warrant Article is to correct that oversight, since the appropriate hearings have now been conducted.*

**Town of Alexandria  
Building Permit Ordinance**

In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Alexandria, the following ordinance was adopted:

1. No building (including mobile homes) intended as a dwelling place or structure intended for commercial use shall be erected or moved into the Town of Alexandria without first obtaining a building permit from the selectmen or their designee.
2. All applicants for a building permit shall be accompanied by an approved driveway construction permit, a state-approved septic system design, if applicable, and any other requirements mandated by a higher level of government, including but not limited to Public Utilities Commission, NH Wetlands Board, or NH Dept. of Environmental Services.
  - a. Commercial buildings and/or commercial structures intended or designed to be used for any industrial, commercial or other use shall be no more than fifty (50) feet high and shall provide noncombustible walls and partitions between their component parts as necessary. Additionally, all plans for a commercial building must be reviewed by the NH State Fire Marshall or his designee for compliance with the NH State Building Code.

- b. No building intended or designed for any public use or congregation of people shall be erected, altered or used for any purpose which does not provide adequate exits as provided in Chapters 155 and 156 New Hampshire Revised Statutes, Annotated, 1995, and any supplements, and in regulations of New Hampshire Fire Marshall's Office and NH State Building Code.
- c. Any new boiler or furnace shall be inspected by the Town Fire Chief or their designee prior to occupancy.
3. Permits shall be approved or denied within thirty (30) days after application is submitted.
4. Each application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee as stated on the application.
5. Permits shall be void if the structure is not weatherized within one year after approval.
6. Penalties: Upon any well-founded information that this ordinance is being violated, the selectmen or their designee shall take immediate steps to enforce the provisions of this ordinance by seeking an injunction in the Superior Court or by any other appropriate legal action. Whoever violates any of the above regulations may be punished upon conviction by a fine not exceeding \$100 per day for each violation, plus all legal costs in connection with settling the issue.
7. This ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and shall supersede the ordinance passed in March of 1979 and any other previous versions.

Adopted March 15, 2007 and amended at the Second Session of the Annual Meeting on March 10, 2015.

#### **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.

*NOTE: A "yes" vote would adopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit as explained in the warrant article. A "no" vote would result in the All Veterans' Tax Credit not being adopted.*

#### **Article 13: RSA 72:76 Commercial/Industrial Property Tax Exemption**

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. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

*NOTE: A "yes" vote would adopt the property tax exemption for new commercial or industrial use per NH RSA 72:76 for five years, commencing on April 1, 2018.. A "no" vote would result in the exemption not being adopted.*

*The exemption of the 50% of the valuation applies only to a new building or new construction of an addition to a building to be used for commercial or industrial purposes and would take effect April 1<sup>st</sup> following the completion of said building(s). The 50% exemption applies to the municipal and local school tax portion only and expires after three consecutive years.*

#### **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).

*NOTE: This article was presented by petition to the Selectmen. A "yes" vote will authorize the payment of \$1,500 to the Day Away Program. A "no" vote will result in no payment to the Day Away Program.*

#### **Article 15: Seasonal Maintenance of Newfound Hills Road**

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.

*NOTE: This article was presented by petition to the Selectmen. Newfound Hills Road is currently a private road off of Eastman Hill Road. A "yes" vote would result in the town adopting and maintaining Newfound Hills Road as a town road as described in the warrant article. A "no" vote result in the town not maintaining Newfound Hills Road.*