

Town of Alexandria
First Deliberative Session Minutes
February 9, 2019

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 a.m. by Moderator Dennis Ford. Dennis welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that this is the 237th year since Alexandria was incorporated. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Dennis introduced the Selectboard, Clerk, Town Administrator, Budget Committee, and the Supervisors of the Checklist. A moment of silence was observed for those who have passed away.

Dennis then read the rules of the meeting: 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 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.

Motion made and seconded to accept the rules of the meeting.

No discussion.

Motion Passed.

Warrant read as follows:

First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session):

Date: Saturday, February 9, 2019

Time: 10:00 am

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

Details: This session shall consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the warrant articles numbered 1 through 17. 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 12, 2019

Time: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Location: 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 01 forward for debate.

No discussion.

Motion made to move Article 01 forward – Motion Passed

Article 02 Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Alexandria 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 \$1,724,005? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,590,641, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alexandria 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. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-2).

Motion made and seconded to move Article 02 forward for debate.

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No discussion.

Motion made to move Article 02 forward – Motion Passed

Motion was made and seconded to reconsider Article 02. Article 02 was moved forward for debate.

Thomas Moore made a proposal to increase the Highway Department budget for \$50,000 for the purchase of sand. Motion could not move forward as written.

Thomas Moore made a proposal to increase the overall town budget to \$1,774,005, motion seconded. Motion moved forward for debate.

There was discussion that the Town would use the additional money added to the operating budget "in good faith" for the purchase of sand. George Tuthill stated that that would be the intent, but there would be no guarantees. Jeff also agreed that that would be the intent.

Motion made to approve the amendment. Motion Passed

Shall the Town of Alexandria 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 \$1,774,005? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,590,641, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alexandria 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. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0-3).

Motion made to move Article 02 forward as amended – Motion Passed.

Article 03 Highway Dept. Truck Lease 2016

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,305 for the fourth 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. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0-3). (Estimated tax impact \$0.14 per thousand)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 03 forward for debate.

No discussion.

Motion made to move Article 03 forward – Motion Passed.

Article 04 Highway Dept. Backhoe Lease 2016

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,996 for the fourth 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. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-2). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.10)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 04 forward for debate.

No discussion.

Motion made to move Article 04 forward – Motion Passed.

Article 05 Highway Dept. Truck Lease 2017

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,655 for the third of six yearly payments for the lease of the 2017 dump truck for the Highway Department. This lease agreement was

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approved at the 2017 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0-3). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.06)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 05 forward for debate.

Jeff Cantara gave a brief explanation on how the leased equipment program is structured.

Motion made to move Article 05 forward – Motion Passed.

Article 06 New Highway Dept. Loader Lease

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a six year lease agreement in the amount of \$116,650 for the purpose of leasing a Loader for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,428 for the first year's payment for that purpose. The full cost of the vehicle is \$163,000; the amount lease reflects trade-in value of the loader being replaced. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1-3). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.11)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 06 forward for debate.

Jeff explained that if the current leased equipment is not voted in, the town would need to "walk away" from the equipment. A discussion followed regarding the condition of the current loader, Jeff explained that the current loader was in need of many repairs. No further debate.

Motion made to move Article 06 forward – Motion Passed.

Article 07 Angle Broom, Plow & Wing for Loader

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,030 for purchase of angle broom, wing and plow for the highway department loader and authorize the withdrawal of \$45,030 from the Highway Equipment Fund created for that purpose. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (0-4-3). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.00). (Majority vote required)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 07 forward for debate.

The budget committee was asked why they did not recommend this warrant if the tax impact is zero. It was the opinion of the budget committee that it would be detrimental to the loader if this equipment were to be installed and the loader needs to be at the highway garage in case it is needed to load sand and salt. Ken Braley stated that he felt the Town should continue hiring the broom and preserving the loader. Jeff stated that loading the trucks shouldn't be a concern, the loader could be used if one of the trucks should be down and that the loader could perform the work the grader could do in half the time. Jeff also stated that he would continue to use the DOT to sweep the road, but use the loader for Town projects.

Motion made to move Article 07 forward – Motion Passed.

Article 08 New Highway Dept. Truck Lease

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a five year lease agreement for \$125,000 for the purpose of leasing a new dump truck for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (2-2-3). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.13)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 08 forward for debate.

Questions were asked about the new truck. Jeff explained that the new truck would replace truck number four, which is approaching the end of its service life. If the new lease is approved, truck number four would be used as a spare.

Motion made to move Article 08 forward – Motion Passed.

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Article 09 Sand Shed at Highway Dept.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 construct a sand shed for the Highway Department. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-1-3). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.76)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 09 forward for debate.

The question was asked as to why a new sand shed is needed. Jeff explained that 1/3 of the current sand shed is being used for salt storage and recently purchased sand is wet and is freezing in the loaders and pile. He also stated that the frozen sand is creating a hazard for the road crew. Jeff explained that the new sand shed would allow the town to buy sand during the warmer weather when the price is better. There was further discussion about how the new shed would be constructed to avoid corrosion of the building materials.

Motion made to move Article 09 forward – Motion Passed.

Article 10 Paving

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,000 for the repair and maintenance of paved roads? Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0-3). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.89)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 10 forward for debate.

A resident asked if his road would be paved. Jeff stated that it is opened for discussion as to which roads will be paved. He also stated that Cass Mill Road paving needed to be finished.

Motion made to move Article 10 forward – Motion Passed.

Article 11 Fowler River Rd. Box Culvert

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000) for the purpose of installing a box culvert on Fowler River Road with the sum of \$180,000 to be offset by a 75/25 Hazard Mitigation Grant and the remaining (the town's portion) of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) from general taxation. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-0-3). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.30)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 11 forward for debate.

There was a discussion as to where the box culvert would be installed and that flooding in this area creates is a public safety concern.

Motion made to move Article 11 forward – Motion Passed.

Article 12 Fire Dept. SCBA Lease 2017

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,040 for the third 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. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-2). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.14)

Motion made and seconded to move Article 12 forward for debate.

There was a discussion regarding leasing the equipment verses buying. George Clayman stated that maintenance of the equipment is included in the lease which keeps the equipment safety certified.

Motion made to move Article 12 forward – Motion Passed.

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Article 13 Town Hall Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Hall Expendable Trust Fund, per RSA 31:19-a, to provide for the restoration and preservation of the original Town Hall structure, and to raise and appropriate \$4,000 to place into the fund; further to name the Selectboard as agent to expend from the fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-2). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 13 forward for debate.
No Discussion.
Motion made to move Article 13 forward. Motion Passed.*

Article 14 Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be put into the Fire Department Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (4-1-2). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.05)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 14 forward for debate.
There was a brief discussion regarding the Trust Fund.
Motion made to move Article 14 forward. Motion Passed.*

Article 15 Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish an Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund per NH RSA 31:19-a, for the repair of infrastructure damaged in a declared emergency, and to place \$20,000 in the fund from the 2018 unassigned general fund balance; further to name the Selectboard as agent to expend from the fund. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-2). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.00)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 15 forward for debate.
There was a brief discussion regarding the benefit of establishing an Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund. George Tuthill stated that the funds for this would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.
Motion made to move Article 15 forward. Motion Passed.*

Article 16 Shed at Transfer Station

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,000 construct a shed for the Transfer Station. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (0-5-2). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.14)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 16 forward for debate.
Tony Brown was given permission to speak. He gave a description of the proposed structure of the shed. The shed would house the backhoe during the winter months to prevent it from freezing, which causes the transfer station to be shut down. There was concern that structure would be built on leased property, but Tony explained that the structure could be taken apart and relocated. He also stated that the structure would be built on a cement slab that would have to be broken up and removed should the transfer station be relocated.
Motion made to move Article 16 forward. Motion Passed.*

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Article 17 Restoration of Town Records

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,590 for the restoration and preservation of old town records. Recommended by the Selectmen (3-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-0-2). (Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 17 forward for debate.
There was a brief discussion regarding the restoration process.
Motion made to move Article 17 forward. Motion Passed.*

The floor was opened for discussion:

An amendment was made to the Operating Budget (please see Article 02 for details).

Nancy Whitman announced that there were treats available for sale to raise money for the town hall preservation project. George Tuthill also stated that the contractor will begin restoration of the town hall windows.

Jeff Cantara thanked all who were involved in the budget process and encouraged public participation.

*Motion made by Michelle Sanborn to restrict reconsideration on all 17 articles put forth before us today. Motion Seconded.
No discussion.
Motion Passed.*

Michelle also provided information on upcoming legislation (HB210 and CACR8).

There was a discussion regarding recycling. Steve Whitman gave information regarding the changing market of recycling.

*Dennis thanked everyone who attended the meeting.
Motion made to adjourn and seconded.
Motion Passed.*

Respectfully submitted:



Francine M. Skiffington
Town Clerk