



# ALEXANDRIA TODAY FEBRUARY 2020 EDITION

47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222 www.alexandrianh.com alexandrianh@metrocast.net 603-744-3220

## SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

### FIRST DELIBERATIVE SESSION

When: Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm

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

### TOWN VOTING DAY (SECOND DELIBERATIVE SESSION)

When: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 polls open 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

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

Alexandria adopted the Official Ballot Referenda (SB2) in 2010. Official Ballot Referenda is a form of town meeting that has two sessions. The first session (deliberative session) is for explanation, discussion, debate and amendments to the proposed operating budget and warrant articles (see NH RSA 40:13, IV below). The second session (voting session) allows voters to cast an official ballot to pass/fail proposed articles. The Town Warrant and Budget will be posted online and available at the Municipal Building by January 27, 2020.

Per NH RSA 40:13, IV

*IV. The first session of the meeting, governed by the provisions of RSA 40:4, 40:4-a, 40:4-b, 40:4-f, and 40:6-40:10, shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each warrant article, including warrant articles pertaining to the operating budget and the default budget. A vote to restrict reconsideration shall be deemed to prohibit any further action on the restricted article until the second session, and RSA 40:10, II shall not apply. Warrant articles may be amended at the first session, 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 the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended.*

*(c) No warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this subparagraph.*

**Annual Reports will be available no later than Tuesday, March 3, 2020 and will include the final budget and ballot questions. (NH RSA 40:13, II).**

#### Policy Regarding Availability of Sand:

- Sand is available behind the Municipal Building (47 Washburn Road).
- Residents of the Town of Alexandria are allowed to fill up five 5-gallon buckets with sand for use on their property.
- The filling of pick-ups or other trucks and use by contractors is prohibited.
- Removal of sand by residents at the Highway Garage on Mundy Road is prohibited.
- The fine for a violation of this policy is \$100 per incident.

It was brought to my attention that there may be some confusion on who is allowed to take the sand. While our policy states residents of the Town Alexandria are allowed to use the sand, this is not intended to prevent those taxpayers that are not residents but use their property in Alexandria seasonally from using the sand. This policy is intended to prevent people from taking sand and using outside of the Town of Alexandria.

**Abatements:** An abatement is a request to refund some of the taxes paid on a property. Abatement requests generally fall into two broad categories: physical description errors and valuation opinion differences. To receive a copy of your assessment record card that shows what is listed for the physical description of the property and property value, please contact the Selectmen's Office at alexandrianh@metrocast.net or 603-744-3220.

Annually, after receiving the final tax bill of the year, property owners may file a formal request to review their property's assessment. The request must be made in writing and must be filed by March 1, 2018. If you wish to file an application for abatement, you may obtain the form from the selectmen's office during regular hours. Abatement forms are also available online at [www.alexandrianh.com](http://www.alexandrianh.com). More information about abatements can be found on our website at <http://alexandrianh.com/departments/selectmens-office/abatements/>.

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## TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

### THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE NOW ACCEPTS ONLINE TRANSACTIONS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWALS AND DOG LICENSING!



INVOICE CLOUD WILL PROCESS YOUR ACTUAL PAYMENT. THIS IS A FEE BASED SERVICE. For credit card transactions, the service fee is either \$1.95 or 2.95% of the transaction amount, whichever is greater. For electronic check (ACH/EFT) transactions, the service fee is \$0.95.

### DOG LICENSES



**All Dog Licenses expire on April 30.**

2020 Dog Licenses are NOW AVAILABLE.

Dog Fees are as follows:

Every owner or keeper of a dog 4 months old or older shall register the dog annually with the town clerk. At the time of registration, the owner will receive a metal tag with the following information - name of the town, year of the issue of the license and its registered number. This tag is to be affixed to the dog's collar. Regardless of when the license is obtained, it shall be effective from May 1 of each year to April 30 of the subsequent year. To prevent the initiation of a late penalty of \$1.00 per month, please renew your dog license by April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to license your dog by mail, visit our website to download the form on the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's page at alexandrianh.com.

Puppy (Up to Seven Months)	\$6.50
Spayed or Neutered	\$6.50
Unaltered Male/Female	\$9.00
Senior(Dog owned by Senior Citizen, 1 <sup>st</sup> dog only)	\$2.00
Group (5 dog minimum)	\$20.00

**Vaccination Required** - Before a license is issued the owner or keeper of the dog, must furnish verification that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies. If a valid rabies certificate is on file with the clerk, the owner shall not be required to produce such verification at the time of license.

**The Alexandria Fire Department will be hosting a rabies clinic in April. We will post the date as soon as it is available.**



**Alexandria Waste Management Committee 02/20**



**Recycling is contagious; You set the example, and others will follow**

**Trivia Quiz Question for the Month:** At the current rate of pollution to our oceans, in what year will the amount of plastic pollution in our oceans exceed the amount of fish? (see bottom of newsletter article for correct answer).

### Money in our Pockets

Net savings through December 2019 are \$8230, including a 4th quarter adjustment for glass of \$354. The final numbers were a little disappointing; however, considering the impact China's ceasing to be a market for many recyclable materials and the drop in world demand overall, our program has fared better than many other New Hampshire communities. I anticipate that as the state legislature works through the recommendations presented by the State Recycling Committee last December things will improve from a management and control standpoint. However, I don't see these changes immediately impacting the market for recycled materials; this will only happen when technology advances to a point where it's more economical to use recycled materials as the raw material for manufacturing new products and more materials that can be recycled replace current non-recyclable materials. New ways to use recyclable materials are forthcoming, but it will take time.

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Details of the 2019 yearly activities and the outlook for 2020 will be recapped in the Annual Report; please look it over at your convenience. We continue to maximize our savings given our current facilities at the present location and we are handling the disposal of non-recyclable materials as efficiently as possible, given the current worldwide market conditions.

### **What's New at the Transfer Station**

I recently attended a forum at the recycling center we use for glass; the topic for discussion was how New Hampshire towns and municipalities are managing their recycling programs considering the ever-changing market conditions and the disappearing space available for landfills. We have talked about these problems and how they've impacted Alexandria and our recycling program many times over the past year, and while I'd like to report improvement, that's not the case; if anything, conditions have tightened even more. The cost of waste disposal is going up. From a non-recyclable materials standpoint, landfills are reaching capacity resulting in solid waste needing to be hauled further; and from a recyclable materials standpoint, recycling centers are having to upgrade their current equipment, invest in new equipment to comply with market demands for "cleaner" recycled materials, or in some cases, close their operation or restrict the types of materials accepted.

Each town or municipality is faced with its own unique problems and challenges in order to cope with these issues. However, the consensus of the group at the forum was that discontinuing recycling programs was not the answer, nor was it the "responsible" thing to do. In smaller towns such as Alexandria, dual stream with source sorting seemed to be the most viable solution. Further cost efficiency can be achieved if transfer stations have the space to perform some of the tasks currently provided by the recycling processing centers. For example: space to house a crusher/bailer for aluminum cans and cardboard with a dry place to store the bails awaiting shipment to the recycling center or directly to the end user; additional bins for a finer sort would allow us the flexibility to respond quickly to changing market conditions. An example would be glass; there is a market for recycled glass including ceramics, window glass, etc. as well as bottles and jars, all of which can be crushed and used as aggregate fill; however, if the bottles and jars are separated out, they can be processed and used to manufacture new glass products and will bring a higher price. The crew at the transfer station does a great job policing the bins to keep them contaminate free and avoiding refused shipments at the processing centers and/or penalty fines; however, they need your help. Please presort your recyclable materials before you get to the transfer station. The staff realizes that over the past year it's been hard to keep track of what's recyclable and what's not and that fluctuation will probably continue this year as well, until the markets sort themselves out. Tony says that for the most part, folks have adjusted well and are adhering to the sorting criteria and wanted me to pass on their appreciation and thanks – it may not be readily apparent, but your efforts are saving us money. Plastic bags inadvertently thrown in the bins are still the biggest problem; please remember to empty the bags into the bin and place the empty bags in the trash barrel next to the container.

**Correction:** In October, I erroneously reported that sand for public use was no longer available at the transfer station but could be obtained at the sand shed behind the municipal building and at the old town garage 24/7. Public sand provided by the town is governed by a town policy amended in February 2018 after the completion on the new sand shed behind the municipal building on Washburn Rd. and **does not** include sand availability at the old town garage. At the January 21, 2020 meeting, the policy was amended to remove reference to the transfer station as a source for sand. The **only** public sand for residents' use is the sand located behind the municipal building on Washburn Rd. and it is available 24/7. All other restrictions remain as before. Please see the town website, on the Highway Department's webpage, to review the policy.

### **Every Individual Can Contribute**

The town's Annual Report will have a recap of recycling activities during 2019, and although we fell short of our monetary expectations for savings, it was a successful year and our program responded well to the abrupt market changes. As we begin the new year, I'd like to look ahead at the future of recycling in Alexandria.

In January, I reported that the newly created State Recycling Committee met 14 times, resulting in the conclusion that New Hampshire's waste and recycling infrastructure needs significant and long overdue attention, according to a new report from state legislators. The committee made 23 specific recommendations to address the issues. The state has taken the first step in addressing the issues by establishing the committee. It's now the legislature's responsibility to address the recommendation and move forward. No doubt there will be changes in the coming year, and we will need to modify our program accordingly. I will try to keep you advised as to the progress being made over the coming year as bills are introduced. Your job (and mine) is to have an active dialog with our state representatives letting them know how we stand on legislative proposals as they work to address the issues. To read the entire State Recycling Committee's report click here.

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Source: <https://www.wastetodaymagazine.com/article/new-hampshire-state-recycling-challenges-opportunities/>  
<https://www.wastedive.com/news/new-hampshire-legislators-call-for-major-recycling-changes/566763/>



Creative ideas for recycling, reusing items, and interesting articles or websites offering recycling ideas are always welcome; as are comments and suggestions about the newsletter articles. Please submitted your comments to: [steve.whitman@hotmail.com](mailto:steve.whitman@hotmail.com); be sure to state "recycling comments" in the subject. In some cases, with the author's permission, comments may be printed in subsequent issues. You can visit

the transfer station webpage on the town website [<http://alexandrianh.com/departments/transfer-station/>] for more information about the transfer station as well as links to recycling information sites. Thank you all for your continued support; thanks to you our program is working.

*Ans. to trivia quiz:* The amount of plastic in the ocean today is estimated at 150 million metric tons. The proportion of plastic to fish in the ocean is expected to increase at a rate of 4.8% each year until 2025, according to the report by the World Economic Forum, and at a rate of 3% from 2025 to 2050. This analysis operates on the assumption that the total mass of all the fish in the sea is around 1,000 million metric tons, and that this number won't significantly increase or decrease in the coming decades. If these rates of increase hold true, by 2025, when the ocean contains a projected 250 million tons of plastic, the ratio of plastic to fish will be roughly one to three. In 2050, the ratio will be one to one — with a slight edge to the plastic.

## Other Local Events/Organizations



Newfound Lake Region Association presents  
**State of the Lake: Current Issues Impacting Newfound Lake**  
**Feb. 13, 6:30-8pm**  
**Minot-Sleeper Library**  
**35 Pleasant St Bristol, NH**

Executive Director Rebecca Hanson and Program Manager Andrew Veilleux will talk about all the great work happening in the Newfound Watershed as well as water quality trends, invasive species, and watershed planning. Come with your questions for these lake experts!



## BLOOD DRIVES

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020 9:30 am to 3:30 pm**  
Freudenberg-NOK, 450 Pleasant Street, Bristol, NH

**Friday, March 6, 2020 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm**  
Newfound Regional High School, 150 Newfound Road, Bristol, NH

## Newfound Area School District

*The Newfound Area School District also holds a First Deliberative Session to review the Newfound Area School District's warrant and proposed budget.*

February 1, 2020 – Newfound Area School District's First Deliberative Session at Newfound Regional High school at 10 am  
More information is available online at [www.sau4.org](http://www.sau4.org).



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## Office Hours

### Selectmen's Office – 744-3220

Monday: 8 am to 4 pm  
Tuesday: 8 am to 6 pm  
Wednesday: 8 am to 4 pm  
Thursday: 8 am to 4 pm  
Friday: CLOSED

### Town Clerk/ Tax Collector – 744-3288

Monday: 9 am to 4 pm  
Tuesday: 9 am to 7 pm  
Wednesday: 9 am to 4 pm  
Thursday: 9 am to 4 pm  
Friday: CLOSED

### Transfer Station

Monday: 8 am to 4 pm  
Wednesday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm  
*\*Must arrive 15 minutes prior to posted closing time\**

### Police Department 744-6650

Chief Donald Sullivan  
When dispatcher picks up, give dispatcher your message. They will page an officer on the radio. Cell phones are not reliable locally.

### Highway Department – 744-6516

Jeff Cantara, Road Agent

### Planning Board – 744-8986

*Deliberative Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm*  
Open 1 hour prior to meeting.  
*Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.*

### Conservation Commission

To contact the Conservation Commission:  
e-mail: [alexandrianh@metrocast.net](mailto:alexandrianh@metrocast.net)  
Phone: 603-744-3220  
Mail: 47 Washburn Road  
Alexandria, NH 03222

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

*\*Please check website for up-to-date meeting schedule\**

Saturday, February 1, 2020: Town of Alexandria Deliberative Session at 2:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020: Presidential Primary – polls open 8:00 am to 7:00 pm  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday, February 19, 2020: Planning Board Meeting at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday, February 26, 2020: Conservation Commission Meeting at 6:30 pm

*All meetings are held in the Conference Room at the Municipal Building (47 Washburn Road) and open to the public unless otherwise noted.  
Selectmen: All appointments and agenda items for Selectmen's meetings must be submitted to the Selectmen's Office by 4:00 pm the Thursday before the meeting. The Selectmen hold work sessions as needed at 5:00 pm prior to the meetings.*

*Planning Board: Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.*