

**Town of Alexandria  
First Deliberative Session Minutes  
February 1, 2020**

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 that the two sessions of the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

*The Deliberative Session of the meeting was opened at 2:00 p.m. by Moderator Dennis Ford. Dennis welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that this is the 238<sup>th</sup> year since the Town of Alexandria was incorporated in 1782. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a brief moment of silence was observed for those who have passed. Dennis introduced the members of the Selectboard, Budget Committee, Road Agent, Town Administrator and Town Clerk.*

*The rules of the meeting were read as follows: The Articles will be read and opened for discussion, registered resident 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.*

*Warrant read as follows:*

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

Date: February 1, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm

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 16. 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: March 10, 2020

Time: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Location: Town Hall, 45 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222

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      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 \$1,877,454 (as recommended by the Budget Committee)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,836,132, 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 \$6.30 per thousand based on the Budget Committee's recommended budget before revenues.

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

*Jeff Cantara thanked those responsible for preparing the meeting, the Budget Committee and town employees for their work.*

*Motion made to move Article 02 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 03      Highway Department Truck Lease 2016**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,305 for the fifth 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. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.14 per thousand)

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

*A suggestion was made by Jeff Cantara to transfer the Highway Department's leased vehicles payments into future operating budgets. Michael Provost suggested that the first lease agreement would be voted on in a separate warrant article and subsequent lease payments would be included in the next year's operating budget. Mike Provost suggested to take a non-binding vote to see if those in attendance were in agreement with the suggestion.*

*Motion made and seconded to vote on non-binding suggestion – Non Binding vote passed.*

*This will not impact the 2020 Operating Budget or Warrant*

*Motion made to move Article 03 forward (as originally written) – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 04      Highway Department Backhoe Lease 2016**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,996 for the fifth 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. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.10 per thousand)

*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 Department Truck Lease 2017**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,655 for the fourth 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. Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.06 per thousand)

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

*No discussion.*

*Motion made to move Article 05 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 06 Fire Department SCBA Lease 2017**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,040 for the fourth 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. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.14 per thousand)

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

*There was a brief discussion regarding the life of the SCBA equipment.*

*Motion made to move Article 06 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 07 Highway Department Loader 2019**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,365 for the second of six yearly payments for the lease of the 2019 Loader for the Highway Department. This lease agreement was approved at the 2019 Town Meeting and contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.11 per thousand)

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

*No discussion.*

*Motion made to move Article 07 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 08 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. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.05 per thousand)

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

*George Clayman was asked if the amount proposed was adequate, George replied that it was sufficient.*

*Motion made to move Article 08 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 09      Town Hall Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be put into the Town Hall Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.08 per thousand)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 09 forward for debate.  
Nancy Whitman gave an update on the work which has already been done to the town hall and explained the urgent repairs that are still needed.  
Motion made to move Article 09 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 10      Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be put into the Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.05 per thousand)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 10 forward for debate.  
George Clayment explained the purpose of the Emergency Management Expendable Trust Fund.  
Motion made to move Article 10 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 11      Land Purchase**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the purchase of land (Tax Map 419 Lot 29) for the future development of a transfer station and potential source of gravel for the highway department? Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-0-1. (Estimated tax impact \$1.02 per thousand)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 11 forward for debate.  
There was a lengthy discussion regarding the land and the potential uses for the land as a transfer station and a source of gravel for the town. There was a concern expressed by an abutter about the location, increased traffic and noise. Other abutters expressed their understanding of the potential benefits to the town purchasing the property. There was a discussion regarding the need for permitting for excavation. Jeff also stated that he did not include a warrant article this year for paving in an attempt to keep the overall budget level.*

*A motion was made by Cindy Williams to increase Article 11 up to \$10,000 to include the cost of permitting for a gravel pit.*

*A vote was taken to accept the motion – Motion Passed.*

*Motion made to move Article 11 forward as amended – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 12     Bailey Road Bridge**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,000 to replace the bridge on Bailey Road. Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.89 per thousand)

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

*A resident asked how long the replacement bridge would last, Jeff stated that the bridge could potentially last for 75 years.*

*Motion made to move Article 12 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 13     Repairs to Highway 2009 Sterling Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for the repairs to the Highway Department's 2009 Sterling truck. Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.30 per thousand).

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 13 forward for debate.*

*Jeff explained that refurbishing this truck would be better for the town then entering into a new lease at this time.*

*Motion made to move Article 13 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 14     New Highway Department Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a six year lease agreement for \$21,000 for the purpose of leasing a new dump truck for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. The full cost of the vehicle is \$120,000. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.11)

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 14 forward for debate.*

*Jeff explained this new lease would replace the 1996 Ford L8000 which is in "very rough" condition.*

*Motion made to move Article 14 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 15      Chip Sealing**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of chip sealing roadways. Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-1-1. (Estimated tax impact \$0.25 per thousand).

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 15 forward for debate.*

*Jeff described the chip sealing process. He stated that Thissell Road and Mathews Road have already been chip sealed.*

*Motion made to move Article 15 forward – Motion Passed*

---

**Article 16      Gale Road**

Request to extend the town maintained section of the west Gale Road approximately 1/4 mile. Currently a class VI road with several upgrades. This would make it much easier for the town trucks to turn around. This article presented by petition.

*Motion made and seconded to move Article 16 forward for debate.*

*A resident asked if this was requested by a resident or the town. Jeff explained that this is a petition article, but the town vehicles currently use this section of road to turn around in. The section of the road where the town vehicles are supposed to turn around is unsafe.*

*Motion made to move Article 16 forward – Motion Passed*

---

*A motion was made by Michelle Sanborn to restrict reconsideration on all 16 articles put forth before us today.*

*Motion Seconded*

*No discussion*

*Motion passed*

*The floor was opened for questions and comments, there were comments regarding zoning and building permits.*

---

*Dennis thanked everyone who attended the meeting.*

*Motion made to adjourn and seconded.*

*Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted:



Francine M. Skiffington  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector