

Date: 3/13/2023

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Sanbornton Central School

The 2024 Town Meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by the Moderator Tim Lang.

Selectmen Frederick lead the legislative body with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Matthew Beem the Pastor from the Mountain View Church was recognized to give the invocation.

Selectmen Deacon recognized the Building Construction Committee as this year's recipients of the dedication of the Annual Town Report. They were a dedicated group who worked endlessly to have a new Town office Building and refurbishing the old Town Office Building into the new Police Station.

Selectmen Deacon then recognize Kate Osgood and Robert Presby as outgoing members of the Budget Committee. Robert Lambert was recognized as the outgoing Selectmen and thanked for service for the past three years.

Raymond Masse was recognized for all his work assisting the BOS and the BC for all his work on the detailed budget spreadsheets.

The budget committee introduced themselves, Kate Osgood chair, Bob Presby, vice chair, Christine Gagnon, Bob, Sylvia, Dick Gardner.

Selectmen Brandon Deacon, introduced Chair, Bob Lambert, Clerk, and Glenn Frederick. Town Administrator, Trish Stafford, Town Clerk- Tax Collector, Juliana Lonergan and Town Counsel, Steve Bennett, and co-counsel.

Moderator Lang went over the rules of the meeting. Moderator, Lang announced that he would be re-ordering tonight's warrant. He would be moving Article #8 SB2 to the number two spot.

Moderator Lang announced the vote totals and election results from Tuesday's Town Election. Moderator Lang invited Jim Gagnon to speak to the crowd about the Pavilion Project. He is working to have a gazebo placed in the town field behind the old town hall.

Moderator, Lang read Article #1 as follows:

Article 1 - Operating Budget – Town

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Million, Six Hundred Fifty- Seven Thousand, One Hundred Sixty-One Dollars (\$5,657,161) for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-2-0) – Recommended by the Selectmen

DRA Account	Account Name	Selectmen's Recommendation	Budget Committee Recommendation
4130 - 4199	General Government	\$1,536,747	\$1,523,299
4210	Police Department	\$837,535	\$837,535
4220 - 4299	Fire Department & Emergency Mgmt.	\$887,676	\$887,676
4311 - 4319	Highways & Streets	\$1,113,750	\$1,113,750
4321 - 4329	Sanitation	\$415,053	\$415,053
4411 - 4449	Health & Welfare	\$186,455	\$186,455
4520	Recreation	\$181,816	\$181,816
4550	Library	\$211,873	\$211,873
4583 - 4589	Patriotic Purposes & Other Culture	\$2,751	\$2,751
4611 - 4659	Conservation	\$5,242	\$5,242
4711 - 4799	Debt Service	\$291,711	\$291,711
Total Operating Budget		\$5,670,610	\$5,657,161

Moderator Lang recognized Kate Osgood for the purpose of a motion to Article #1. Seconded by Bob Presby.

Moderator Lang looked to the BC and BOS to speak to Article #1 seeing none, he opens it up for discussion.

Jim Dick submitted an Amendment to Article #1 seconded by Mark Brown.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Million, Four Hundred Two Thousand, Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$5,402,950) for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Jim Dick spoke to his amendment stating the operating increase in the budget was 7.3%. His amendment would restrict the operating budget to a 3% increase to the bottom line from last year’s budget. Jim cited a cost of living 3% And that the 6% offered was out of line with current standards. Jim explained taxes went up due to a reevaluation of the town. The tax rate went down however, taxes still went up with this budget having a 6% increase. We feel we need to bring it down to 3% to cover the gap.

Ray Masse spoke in favor of the amendment.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote the amendment passed.

Moderator Lang re-read the new amended Article #1.

Moderator Lang called for a voice vote.

The voice vote was in the affirmative, Article #1 passes.

Moderator Lang recognized Nina Gardner for a motion to restrict reconsideration to Article#1. Moderator Lang called for a voice vote. **The vote was in the affirmative.**

Moderator Lang read Article #8 as follows:

Article 8 – Petitioned Warrant Article SB2

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Sanbornton on the second Tuesday of March?

(3/5-Majority Ballot Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Non-Monetary Warrant Article
Not Recommended by the Selectmen

Moderator Lang recognized Jackie Sandstrom for the purpose of a motion to Article #8. Seconded by Peter Sandstrom.

Jackie Sandstrom spoke to Article# 2. SB2 allows for ballot voting on all fiscal matters. There would be a deliberative session to go over the budget and you would still vote on articles like you do here tonight. The difference is voting would take about a month later and at the polls. This would allow people who were shut-ins or unable to come vote on the budget. Jackie read a note from Guy Giunta, who is in support of SB2. His wife has medical conditions and they would be able to vote on the budget if SB2 was in place.

Nancy Durgin spoke in favor of SB2, and stated as she has a hearing problem coming to meetings makes it difficult for her to hear. She also stated that it's difficult for parents to find childcare.

Andrew Sanborn spoke against SB2. He stated that democracy is not a spectator sport. He stated that Federal Elections have a good turnout but he feels SB2 would decrease voters' participation and responsibility.

Lynn Chong spoke against SB2. She explained she went to a neighboring SB2 town and they had 17 questions on their ballot.

Jim Dick spoke against SB2. He stated he feels you lose out on debate. It's a take it or leave it approach. Active participation is important. He also stated there's no requirement to zoom or live stream meetings.

Jason Young asked to call the question, Moderator Lang declined the offer as people are still standing in line.

Cindy Taylor spoke against SB2. She explained at Town Meeting she gets a feel from the community. We find out what people's needs are when we sit in a room and talk like we are tonight.

Michelle Jackson spoke in support of SB2. Lots of people and taxpayers would be able to vote. The town reports were available only five days ago. People need time to find out the answers

there is not enough time currently and SB2 would allow that. She explained that the deliberative session is a way to get to know the budget and have time before you vote to research.

Ray Masse stated when he first came to the tonight's meeting, he was in favor of SB2. However, after Article #1 was amended he is no longer in favor of SB2 as Town meeting works as it should.

Nina Gardner spoke against SB2. She explained that neighboring towns, Belmont and Gilford both SB2 towns have voters guides detailing the Articles on the ballot. She also stated that you cannot amend a ballot box and explain that many other towns like Deerfield have had a default budget for seven years.

Monica Hanlon spoke favor of SB2 she stated that the deliberative session is just like town meeting and the only differences is you vote later after you've had time to research. People should not be afraid of a SB2.

Jim Gagnon questioned the Moderator on procedures on the deliberative session and how budgets can be amended.

Emily Cann asked when the warrant was out and could there be more time so that people have enough time to research. she asked questions regarding voting. Cann would like more information to be available and accessible before voting occurs.

At 8:35 Moderator, Lang called for the Assistant Moderators to go to the four ballot boxes. Voting would be open for 1 hour as required. He also stated that he will move on with the meeting after the majority has voted as not to sit and wait for an hour for the vote. Moderator, Lang explained that voting yes means you are in favor of SB2 and voting no means you want to continue with traditional town meeting.

Moderator, Lang re-read Article #8.

Moderator, Lang called for a ballot vote.

Yes votes: 134

No votes 270

Article # 8 fails.

Moderator Lang read Article #2 as follows:

Article 2 – Capital Outlay

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1) for the following Capital Outlay purposes:

(Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-0-0) – Recommended by the Selectmen

DRA Account	Account Name	Selectmen's Recommendation	Budget Committee Recommendation
4902	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment	\$0	\$0
<u>4909</u>	<u>Improvements Other Than Buildings</u>		
4909.000	Town Roads	\$1	\$1
Total Capital Outlays		\$1	\$1

Moderator Lang recognized Glenn Frederick for the purpose of a motion to Article #2. Seconded by Robert Silvia.

Robert Silvia spoke to the Article #2. This puts place holders for appropriating funds, if necessary.

Moderator Lang gave an education on a zero-budget number opposed to a \$1 budget line.

Moderator Lang read Article #2. Moderator Lang called for a voice vote.

The voice vote was in the affirmative Article #2 passes.

Moderator Lang read Article #3 as follows:

Article 3 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Five Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand, One Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$1,596,135) to be added to the Capital Reserve Funds, previously established, as follows:

(Majority Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-0-0) – Recommended by the Selectmen

DRA Account	Account Name	Selectmen's Recommendation	Budget Committee Recommendation
4915.100	Town Bldg. Improvement & Design	\$25,000	\$25,000
4915.110	Town Facilities (Maint. & Oper.)	\$100,000	\$100,000
4915.120	Reduce Phosphorus or Milfoil	\$7,000	\$7,000
4915.130	Town Hall Repair/Restoration	\$50,000	\$50,000
4915.TBD1	Town Revaluation	\$20,585	\$20,585
4915.300	Fire Truck	\$125,000	\$125,000
4915.600	Police Equipment	\$92,500	\$92,500
4915.TBD2	Highway Heavy Equipment	\$176,250	\$176,250
4915.800	Road & Bridge Reconstruction	\$950,000	\$950,000
4915.900	Transfer Station Equipment	\$49,800	\$49,800
Total Transfer to Capital Reserve Funds		\$1,596,135	\$1,596,135

Moderator Lang recognized Glenn Frederick for the purpose of a motion to Article #3. Seconded by Robert Silvia.

Glenn Frederick spoke to Article #3. Frederick stated that the Capital Reserve Funds are not be adequately funded. The money currently is not enough and we are looking to improve.

Jim Dick submitted an Amendment to Article #3 seconded by John Heath.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Three Hundred Forty-Six Thousand, One Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$1,346,135) to be added to the Capital Reserve Funds, previously established, as follows:

DRA Account	Account Name	Amount Funded
4915.100	Town Bldg. Improvement & Design	\$0
4915.110	Town Facilities (Maint. & Oper.)	\$50,000
4915.120	Reduce Phosphorus or Milfoil	\$7,000
4915.130	Town Hall Repair/Restoration	\$25,000
4915.TBD1	Town Revaluation	\$20,585
4915.300	Fire Truck	\$125,000
4915.600	Police Equipment	\$92,500
4915.TBD2	Highway Heavy Equipment	\$176,250
4915.800	Road & Bridge Reconstruction	\$800,000
4915.900	Transfer Station Equipment	\$49,800
Total Transfer to Capital Reserve Funds		\$1,346,135

Jim Dick explained that there is money currently \$140k already in the fund adding an additional \$25k should be enough for the Old Town Hall. Road & Bridge construction has an increase of \$200,000 he explained he feels it's way too much. He suggested \$50,000 this year and a \$50,000 every year forward the tax increase would not be \$.50 from original should be about half.

Selectmen Frederick said reducing the money for the Chapel station it's not in the best interest of the town. Chapel station is basically a garage and it needs to be upgraded with a new heating system. It needs to be a building that can be used, Fredrick also disagrees with reducing the money for the Old Town Hall. The Old Town Hall needs repair on its roof and foundation. The building needs immediate attention.

Mark Brown stated that buses cannot get up Eastman Hill. He questioned the money that was spent on stone for the roads this year. Highway Director, Johnny VanTassel answered questions. Paul Litchfield would like the roads to be posted during mud season for local traffic only and he thought that better signage would help protect the roads from overuse.

Andrew Sanborn spoke against the amendment he stated that we need to stop the silt from going into Lake Winnisquam.

Jason Young asked how much money was saved for such a mild winter. VanTassel responded that a budget is not made just for winter. There are other times of the year and won't know how much was saved until the end of the budget cycle.

Jim Dick said if the bulk of the \$200,000 stays that's an increase of \$140 per year just for the CRF.

Andrea Burns questioned if we are polluting the lake are we subject to fines.

Nancy Durgin questioned the Moderator, on how to amend a warrant.

Moderator, Lang reread the new amended Article #3. Moderator, Lang called for a voice vote.
The voice vote was in the affirmative.

Moderator, Lang reread the new amended Article #3. Moderator, Lang called for a voice vote. The Moderator, was unsure of the vote he then called for a hand vote.

The hand count Yes 148 No 145 Article #3 passes as amended.

Moderator Lang read Article #4 as follows:

Article 4 – Appropriate to Expendable Trust Funds

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Expendable Trust Funds, previously established, as follows:

(Majority Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-0-0) – Recommended by the Selectmen

DRA Account	Account Name	Selectmen's Recommendation	Budget Committee Recommendation
4916.000	ETF Employee Severance Benefits	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Total Transfer to Expendable Trust Funds	\$20,000	\$20,000

Moderator Lang recognized Kate Osgood for the purpose of a motion to Article #4. Seconded by Bob Presby.

Kate Osgood spoke to Article #4. Osgood stated this account was to cover when long time employees leave the town. It covers their buy out and allows for the next employee to start immediately.

Moderator Lang read Article #4. Moderator Lang called for a voice vote.

The voice vote was in the affirmative Article #4 passes.

Moderator Lang recognized John Heath for a motion to restrict reconsideration to Article#4 and all prior warrant articles. Seconded by John Olmsted. **The motion passes.** The vote was in the affirmative.

Moderator Lang read Article #5 as follows:

Article 5 – Winnisquam Watershed Preservation

To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a “Winnisquam Watershed Preservation” Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to address pollutant contributors to Lake Winnisquam originating within Sanbornton as determined by the “Lake Winnisquam Watershed-Based Plan” study (July 2022). Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) towards this purpose. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation; and to appoint the Board Selectmen as agents to expend.

(Majority Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (3-4-0) – Recommended by the Selectmen

Moderator Lang recognized Brandon Deacon for the purpose of a motion to Article #5. Seconded by Bob Lambert.

Deacon spoke to Article #5. Dr True Rd, Maple Circle, Bay Rd, Woodman and Steele Hill, Philbrook and Chapman, Huse Rd, Blackbrook Crossing are all pushing silt in to Lake Winnisquam. The Sanbornton Master Plan Survey shows that the public wants these issues addressed. Deacon stated that grants will also be applied for as there are environmental impacts.

Moderator, Lang read Article #5. Moderator, Lang called for a voice vote.

The voice vote was in the affirmative Article #5 passes.

Moderator Lang read Article #6 as follows:

Article 6 – Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a “Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus” Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions RSA 35:1, for the purpose of replacing the Fire & Rescue Department’s Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment to include Breathing Apparatus Compressor. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) towards this purpose, and to appoint the Board of Selectman as agents to expend.

(Majority Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designed as a Special Warrant Article.

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (2-3-2) – Recommended by the Selectmen

Moderator Lang recognized Glenn Fredrick for the purpose of a motion to Article #6. Seconded by Brandon Deacon.

Chief Paul Dexter spoke in favor and explained the need for new equipment.

Dick Gardner explained that the Budget Committee split the recommendation vote on this article. He felt it was a small amount and could go in the regular budget instead of creating a new CRF.

Jim Dick spoke in favor of this warrant article. He said this a perfect application for a CRF account.

Moderator Lang read Article #6. Moderator Lang called for a voice vote.

The voice vote was in the affirmative Article #6 passes.

Moderator Lang recognized Nina Gardner for a motion to restrict reconsideration to Article#6. Seconded by Paul Dexter. **The motion passes.** The vote was in the affirmative.

Moderator Lang read Article #7 as follows:

Article 7 – Tax Impact

To see if the Town will vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article.

(Majority Vote Required)

This Warrant Article is designated as a Non-Monetary Warrant Article
Recommended by the Selectmen

Moderator Lang recognized Brandon Deacon for the purpose of a motion to Article #7. Seconded by Bob Lambert.

Selectmen, Deacon spoke to Article #7. Deacon explained this provides transparency and now we will know the tax impacts of all warrant articles.

Moderator Lang read Article #7. Moderator Lang called for a voice vote.

The voice vote was in the affirmative Article #7 passes.

Article 9 – Other Business

To transact such other business that may legally come before the Town Meeting.

Moderator Lang announced that former town resident and member of the Board of Selectmen Andrew Livernois was appointed as a judge.

Jim Dick implored the BOS to create a volunteer committee for the Old Town Hall to address its issues.

Nina Gardner discussed the Winnisquam Regional School District Formula Committee recommendations to change the funding formula for the district. She encouraged people to attend the WRSD Annual Meeting Saturday, March 23rd, 9:00A.M. at the WRHS gym.

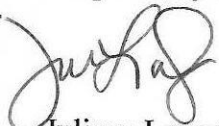
Andrew Sanborn spoke to town ordinances and that they only allow single family homes in residential areas. The State rsa requires that we allow multifamily homes in residential areas.

Earl Leighton told a story of former Selectmen Livernois.

Tim Lang announced the Old Home Day is July 13th.

10:45 Motion to adjourn by Earl Leighton.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juliana', written in a cursive style.

Juliana Loneragan
Town Clerk