

2022 Town Meeting minutes
Town of Sanbornton
State of New Hampshire
March 9, 2022

The 2022 Town Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by the Moderator, Lang. in the gym of the Sanbornton Central School 16 Hunkins Pond Rd.

Reverend, Paula Gile of the Sanbornton Congregational Church was recognized to give the invocation. John Olmstead led the legislative body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectman James Dick presented outgoing Selectman John Olmstead with a recognition of service of service award. John has been a Selectmen for the past six years and Chair of the Board of Selectmen for the past five years. John also served on numerous committees and dedicated many hours of service to the Town.

Selectmen Dick recognized Marcia Haigh the former Town Librarian and presented her with flowers. James noted that Marcia turned the library into a vital part of the community, James thanked her for all you did for the library.

Selectmen Dick, then recognized Karen Cobb for serving as the Town Treasurer for the past seven years. James said that Karen did not run this year and no one signed up, but that she won the write-in vote. Karen has graciously agreed to stay on until the end of this fiscal year.

James also recognized Melanie Van Tassel Overseer of Public Welfare for her past seventeen years of service. Melanie has touched so many lives in town. James thanked her for her all she has done.

Moderator Lang announced the voting results.

Moderator Lang explained the rules of the meeting.

Ray Masse Chair of the Budget Committee introduced Kate Osgood, Ralph Rathjen, Bob Presby. John Olmstead, Board of Selectman Chair, introduced Selectmen James Dick and Robert Lambert, Town Administrator Trish Stafford, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Juliana Lonergan, and Town Counsel Stephen Bennett.

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 Four Million Six Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$4,698,665) 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 Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee (6 – Yes, 0 – No)

DRA Account	Account Name	Selectmen's Recommendation	Budget Committee Recommendation
4130 - 4199	General Government	\$1,253,924	\$1,239,426
4210	Police Department	\$674,991	\$674,991
4220 - 4299	Fire Department & Emergency Mgmt	\$640,441	\$640,441
4311 - 4319	Highways & Streets	\$1,004,287	\$1,004,287
4321 - 4329	Sanitation	\$390,406	\$390,406
4411 - 4449	Health & Welfare	\$121,419	\$120,166
4520	Recreation	\$130,205	\$130,205
4550	Library	\$173,196	\$173,196
4583 - 4589	Patriotic Purposes & Other Culture	\$2,751	\$2,751
4611 - 4659	Conservation	\$2,491	\$2,491
4711 - 4799	Debt Service	\$320,305	\$320,305
	Total Operating Budget	\$4,714,416	\$4,698,665

**Moderator Lang recognized Raymond Masse for the purpose of a motion to Article #1.
Seconded by Robert Lambert**

Ray Masse spoke to the article and explained the operating budget. He explained that budget was reviewed by the BOS and the Budget Committee. Overall, it presents a 9.1% increase over last year's operating budget. This budget includes a bond payment for the new Town Office building & Police Station. Articles 1-4 for the FY23 was up 5.8% over last year's budget.

**Moderator Lang recognized James Dick for the purpose of an amendment to Article 1.
Seconded by Kate Osgood.**

"I move to amend the Budget Committee's recommendation in the Article I Operating Budget, DRA Account 4311-4319 Highways & Streets, by reducing this line by \$135,999 resulting in a new appropriation of \$868,288 and a grand total operating budget of \$4,562,666. The reduction will apply specifically to account 4312.100 Highway Block Grant"

Selectmen Dick explained this amendment is really about Article #6 the money being moved to purchase a new loader for the Highway Department. Because of the way the Department of Revenue Administration manages revenue offsets; the Highway Department Block Grant can't be listed in both the Operating Budget and Article #6. The Block Grant money needs to be taken out of Article #1 and then be used in Article #6. Otherwise, the Town will end up appropriating an extra \$136,000 that it didn't intend. One dollar will be left in the Operating Budget line for the Block Grant to cover any amount received above \$136,000 and in the event Article #6 doesn't pass.

With no more discussion the Moderator Lang called for a vote.

The Vote was in the affirmative the amendment passes.

Moderator Lang read Amended Article #1 as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million Five Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$4,562,666) for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Discussion: Andrew Sanborn noted that our Town Transfer Station cost have increased over transportation of trash for the past three years dramatically. He encouraged people to create less trash.

Moderator Lang called for a vote in Article #1 as amended.

The vote was in the affirmative. Article #1 passes with the Amendment

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 Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Two Dollars (\$128,902) for the following Capital Outlay purposes:

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee (6 - Yes, 0 - No)

DRA Account	Account Name	Selectmen's Recommendation	Budget Committee Recommendation
<u>4902</u>	<u>Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment</u>		
4902.122	Fire SCBA-Breathing Apparatus	\$39,000	\$39,000
4902.304	DPW Truck 5 Lease	\$1	\$1
4902.310	DPW Truck 3 Lease	\$33,725	\$33,725
4902.312	DPW Truck 4 Lease	\$16,175	\$16,175
4902.315	DPW Truck 1 Lease	<u>\$40,000</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>
	Subtotal	\$128,901	\$128,901
<u>4909</u>	<u>Improvements Other Than Buildings</u>		
4909.000	Town Roads	\$1	\$1
	Total Capital Outlays	\$128,902	\$128,902

Moderator Lang recognized John Olmstead for the purpose of motion. Seconded by Robert Lambert.

Selectmen Olmstead spoke to Article #2. This article covers the truck leases for the Highway Department trucks 5, 4, 3, & 1 and breathing equipment for the Fire Dept.

There being no discussion Moderator Lang called for a vote in Article #2.

The vote was in the affirmative. Article #2 passes without Amendments.

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 Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$1,030,000) 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 Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee (6 - Yes, 0 - No)

DRA Account	Account Name	Selectmen's Recommendation	Budget Committee Recommendation
4915.100	Town Building Improvements	\$0	\$0
4915.110	Town Facilities Repair & Refurbish	\$50,000	\$50,000
4915.120	Milfoil/Phosphorous Reduction	\$0	\$0
4915.130	Old Town Hall Repair & Restoration	\$25,000	\$25,000
4915.300	Fire Truck	\$90,000	\$90,000
4915.400	Heavy Equip - Hwy (Incl Road Eval)	\$70,000	\$70,000
4915.500	Fire Truck Repair & Refurbish	\$0	\$0
4915.800	Road/Bridge Construction	\$750,000	\$750,000
4915.900	Transfer Station	\$45,000	\$45,000
Total Transfer To Capital Reserve Funds		\$1,030,000	\$1,030,000

Moderator Lang recognized Robert Lambert for the purpose of motion. Seconded by James Dick.

Selectman Lambert spoke to Article #3. The Capital Reserve Funds reflect a 5.5% decrease from the FY 22 budget.

There being no discussion Moderator Lang called for a vote in Article #3.

The vote was in the affirmative. Article #3 passes without Amendments.

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 Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee (6 - Yes, 0 - No)

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

Moderator Lang recognized James Dick for the purpose of motion. Seconded by Robert Lambert.

Selectman Dick explained Article #4.

There being no discussion Moderator Lang called for a vote in Article #4.

The vote was in the affirmative. Article #4 passes without Amendments.

Moderator Lang read Article #5 as follows:

Article 5 -Establish Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing equipment for the Sanbornton Police Department, including vehicles when required, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand dollars (\$70,000) to be placed in this fund, and further to name the Board of Selectmen as the agent to expend from said Fund. Appropriations under this warrant article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted upon under Article 1.

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee (6 - Yes, 0 - No)

Moderator Lang recognized Robert Lambert for the purpose of motion. Seconded by John Olmstead.

Selectmen Lambert spoke to Article #5. This warrant article establishes a Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund which will allow the Police Department to have a steady level of investment for the high dollar equipment this will avoid spikes in the operating budget when something needs to be replaced.

There being no discussion Moderator Lange called for a vote in Article #5.

The vote was in the affirmative. Article #5 passes without Amendments.

Moderator Lang read Article #6 as follows:

Article 6 - Highway Department Loader Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand dollars (\$186,000) for the purpose of purchasing a replacement Loader for the Highway

Department. One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$136,000) of the purchase price will be funds from the Highway Department Block Grant for FY23. An additional Twenty Thousand dollars (\$20,000) will come from the trade-in of the current loader. The balance of Thirty Thousand (\$30,000) to be raised through taxation. Appropriations under this warrant article are not included in the Capital Outlay total previously voted upon under Article 2.

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee (6 - Yes, 0 - No)

Moderator Lang recognized James Dick for the purpose of motion. Seconded by Robert Lambert.

Selectmen Dick explained the warrant article. The current loader is 23 years old and needs to be replaced.

There being no discussion Moderator Lang called for a vote in Article #6.

The vote was in the affirmative. Article #6 passes without Amendments.

Andrew Sanborn made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles #1-#6. Seconded by Nina Gardner.

There being no discussion Moderator Lang called for the vote.

The vote was in the affirmative and the Moderator declared the motion passed.

Moderator Lang read Article #7 as follows:

Article 7 – Modification to the Elderly Tax Exemption

To see if the Town will vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a, Elderly Exemption from property tax, based on the assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows:

Age 65 to 74: \$40,000

Age 75 to 79: \$50,000

Age 80 and above: \$70,000

To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years.

In addition, the taxpayer must not have net income or net assets, excluding the value of the person's residence, in excess of the following income and asset limits:

Single Income Limit: \$25,000

Married Income Limit: \$40,000

Single Asset Limit: \$60,000

Married Asset Limit: \$60,000

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee (6 - Yes, 0 - No)

Moderator Lang recognized James Dick for the purpose of motion. Seconded John Olmstead.

Selectmen Dick explained the Article #7. This article will change in age, the qualifying amount of income and assets. Their home is not included in assets. Currently we only have 9 tax payers qualify for this program. By increasing the limits, we hope that more can take advantage of this program.

Discussion: Nancy Durgin feels that the levels are extremely low and need to be increased to help more people struggling with their taxes. Selectmen Dick said that they will revisit the amount in a few years and will adjust if needed.

The vote was in the affirmative. Article #7 passes without Amendments.

Moderator Lang read Article #8 as follows:

Article 8 – Adoption of the Disabled Tax Exemption

Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on the assessed value, for qualified taxpayers to be \$25,000.00.

To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for 5 consecutive years.

In addition, the taxpayer must not have net income or net assets, excluding the value of the person's residence, in excess of the following income and asset limits:

Single Income Limit: \$25,000

Married Income Limit: \$40,000

Single Asset Limit: \$60,000

Married Asset Limit: \$60,000

This Warrant Article is designated as a Special Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Selectmen – Recommended by the Budget Committee (6 - Yes, 0 - No)

Moderator Lang recognized James Dick for the purpose of motion. Seconded by Robert Lambert.

Selectmen Dick spoke to Article #8. This would be a new adoption for the town. The State basically uses the same qualification as Social Security for this exemption. Individuals still need to meet the income and asset limit qualifications, which makes it more restricted.

Discussion: Scott Taylor asked for clarification is this either or and people qualify for both? Selectmen Dick explained they can qualify for all. Richard Gardner thinks there should more exemptions for people to qualify for.

The vote was in the affirmative. Article #8 passes without Amendments.

Moderator Lang read Article #9 as follows:

Article 9 – Petitioned Warrant Article - Discontinuance of Class VI Road

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue Old Johnson Rd, a Class VI Road, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 231:43. Said Road was a Class V Road discontinued, subject to gates and bars, by vote of Town Meeting in 1964.

Moderator Lang recognized Gary Seavey for the purpose of motion. Seconded by Nina Gardner.

Tracy Seavey spoke to Article #9. Seavey explained that she and her family have resided for the past 14 years at 95 Johnson Rd. Seavey explained that “Old Johnson Rd” was changed to a Class VI Road in 1964. This road abuts the new gravel pit. The boundaries are not cut and dry and the portion of the road is roughly 500 ft. Selectmen Dick stated there in no value to the Town to retaining this road and this on the western side of I-93. The east part of “Old Johnson Rd.” is now called “Church Lane”.

Moderator Lang recognized Stewart Dymment for an amendment.

“To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the portion of Old Johnson Road on the west side I-93, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 231:43. said road was a class Road discontinues, subject to gates and bars, by vote of Town Meeting in 1964.”

Andrew Sanborn 2nd the motion.

Discussion: Doug Surette questioned was asked if the other abutter was present and what he thought about the proposal. Selectmen Dick said he was notified as required by statute but he was not present.

As there was no more discussion Moderator Lang called for a vote on the Amendment. It was affirmative the Moderator declared the amendment on Article #10 passed.

The Moderator read Article #10 as amended as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the portion of Old Johnson Road on the west side I-93, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 231:43. said road was a class Road discontinues, subject to gates and bars, by vote of Town Meeting in 1964.”

There being no further discussion Moderator Lang called for the vote.

It was in the affirmative and the Moderator declared Article #10 passes as amended.

Moderator Lang read Article #9 as follows:

Article 10 – Other Business

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

Nina Gardner spoke regarding the WRSD meeting that is being held on Saturday, March 19th at 9:00am at the High School in Tilton. Gardner explained that the school makes up the majority of our taxes and strongly encouraged people to attend so Sanbornton has their voices heard. This year there are two bond articles and a teacher contract.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Juliana Lonergan

Town Clerk-Tax Collector