

Summary of Annual Town Meeting  
Lancaster, New Hampshire  
March 8, 2022

At 7:30 p.m. Moderator John L Riff, IV opened the Annual Meeting.

Moderator Riff introduced himself, Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson and Selectmen Leon Rideout, Shane Beattie and Troy Merner. Moderator Riff introduced the WMRHS JROTC to present the colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and National Anthem was played.

Moderator Riff reviewed the ground rules: He reminded any non-residents if they wish to speak, they need to ask permission and be approved before speaking. He will read the article and ask for a motion and a second. If we get a second, then we will open the floor to discussion. Once discussion is over, we will move it for a vote.

Article 1 results, voted on by written ballot on March 8, 2022 (election day), attached.

Article 2 – Operating Budget – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Twenty Dollars (\$7,268,020.00) which represents the operating budget. Said sum does not include any other Warrant Articles.

Article 2 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed.

Motion made by Peter Riviere to move Article 2 – Operating Budget to the end of the meeting and be renumbered to Article 28A. The motion was seconded.

Moderator Riff called for a vote on the amendment to the Operating Budget Article by show of voter cards. The vote was 34 for and 52 against. Motion failed.

Moderator Riff reread the article as originally presented. Discussion followed. Article 2 carried.

Article 3 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Funds – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$165,000.00) to be added to the following Capital Reserve Fund accounts previously established for the purpose and in the amounts indicated:

Highway	\$55,000
Fire Department	\$50,000
Police	\$10,000
Library	\$10,000
Cemetery	\$10,000
Town Hall	\$10,000
Transfer Station	\$10,000
Colonel Town	\$10,000
Total	\$165,000

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee)

Article 3 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 3 carried.

Article 4 – Reimburse Industrial Development Fund – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-One Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars (\$41,155.00) to be added to the Industrial Development Capital Reserve Fund previously established with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 4 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 4 carried.

Article 5 – Money received from fundraising & donations – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$260.00) to be added to the Colonel Town Capital Reserve Fund previously established with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. The amount represents monies from donation to Colonel Town Recreation. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 5 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 5 carried.

Article 6 – Purchase New 10-wheel dump truck w/body & plow – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$239,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a new 10-wheel dump truck w/body and plow for the Highway Department with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 6 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 6 carried.

Article 7 – Lease/Purchase Sidewalk Plow – 3<sup>rd</sup> payment – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$69,129.00) for the third payment on the three-year lease/purchase agreement entered into in 2020 for a sidewalk plow for the Highway Department and to authorize the withdrawal and expenditure of said sum from the Highway capital reserve fund. This lease

Article 7 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 7 carried.

Article 8 – Lease/Purchase Cardiac Monitors – 3<sup>rd</sup> payment – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) for the third payment on the three-year lease/purchase agreement entered into in 2020 for 3 cardiac monitors for the Fire Department and to authorize the withdrawal and expenditure of said sum from the Fire Department capital reserve fund. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 8 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 8 carried.

Article 9 – Purchase New Ambulances – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$242,000.00) for the purchase of two (2) new ambulances with One Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Dollars (\$192,000.00) to come from unassigned fund balance and the remaining Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to come from grant funding. If the grant funding is not awarded, one ambulance will be purchased using unassigned fund balance with no amount to be raised by taxation.

Article 9 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 9 carried.

Article 10 – Purchase New Demo Pre-Crusher – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) for the purchase of a new Demo Pre-Crusher and to refurbish the old auger cans to fit the new machine and add supports to said containers and to authorize the withdrawal and expenditure of said sum from the Transfer Station capital reserve fund. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 10 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 10 carried.

Article 11 – Rehabilitate Sewer Line – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000.00) for the purpose of rehabilitating the main sewer line on Main Street from Grandview Drive to Canal Street with said funds to come from the Sewer Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance.

Article 11 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 11 carried.

Article 12 – Purchase New Pickup Truck – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a new pickup truck for the Water & Sewer departments with Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to come from the Water Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance and Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to come from the Sewer Enterprise Fund unassigned fund balance.

Article 12 moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 12 carried.

Article 13 – Preliminary designs for new Highway garage & permitting for underground fuel storage tanks – Read by Moderator Riff.

Article 13 moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 13 carried.

Article 14 – Replace boards at the skating rink – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) for the purpose of replacing the boards at the skating rink with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 14 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 14 carried.

Article 15 – Replace lighting – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for the purpose of replacing the library's lights with LED lights with said funds to come from the Library capital reserve fund. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the lights are replaced or by March 8, 2027, whichever is sooner. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee)

Article 15 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 15 carried.

Article 16 – Rescind 2021 Article 20 – Water storage tank – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to terminate the non-lapsing appropriation adopted by the 2021 Town Meeting with respect to adding a water storage tank at the water plant. Anticipated grant funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) are not expected to be received. Passage of this article will restore Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to the General Fund.

Article 16 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 16 carried.

Article 17 – Support Lancaster Historical Society – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to assist with the operating budget of the Lancaster Historical Society with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance.

Article 17 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 17 carried.

Article 18 – Northern Human Services/White Mountain Mental Health – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$5,921.00) for the support of Northern Human Services/White Mountain Mental Health.

Article 18 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 18 carried.

Article 19 – Northern Gateway Chamber of Commerce – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Six Hundred Forty Dollars (\$1,640.00) for the support of the Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Article 19 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 19 carried.

Article 20 – Caleb Caregivers – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for the support of the Caleb Caregivers who serves the needs of senior citizens in the community.

Article 20 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 20 carried.

Article 21 – CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of New Hampshire.

Article 21 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 21 carried.

Article 22 – American Red Cross – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (1,600.00) for the support of the American Red Cross.

Article 22 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 22 carried.

Article 23 – Tri County Community Action Program – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$8,150.00) for the support of the Tri-County Community Action programs to include Fuel & Electrical Assistance, Weatherization, Transportation, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Guardianship, RSVP, and Workforce programs.

Article 23 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 23 carried.

Article 24 – Center for New Beginnings – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to help support the Center for New Beginnings in Littleton, which provides counseling and mental health services to individuals throughout the North Country.

Article 24 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 24 carried.

Article 25 – North Country Home Health & Hospice – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$17,991.00) for the support of North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency.

Article 25 was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Article 24 carried.

Article 26 – Androscoggin Valley Home Care – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) for the purpose of supporting the clients of Androscoggin Valley Home Care who live in Lancaster.

Article 26 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 26 carried.

Article 27 – Backpack Program – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to assist with the cost of the North Country Weekend Backpack program.

Article 27 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 27 carried.

Article 28 – Video Recording of meetings – Read by Moderator Riff.

To see if the Town would like to continue video recording the bi-monthly Board of Selectmen's meetings and making the recordings available for viewing on the internet.

Article 28 was moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article 28 carried.

Article 29 Transact other business.

To transact other business that may legally come before this meeting.

There was no other business.

Motion made by Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson and seconded by Shane Beattie to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M Baker  
Town Clerk