

2022 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022 FROM 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
BUSINESS MEETING TO BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 7:00 PM AT THE TOWN HALL

1. To choose the following Town Officers: Moderator (1 for 2 years); Selectman (1 for 3 years); Supervisor of Checklist (1 for 6 years); Trustee of Trust Funds (1 for 3 years); Library Trustee (2 for 2 years); Library Trustee (1 for 3 years); Budget Committee (3 for 3 years); Planning Board (1 for 3 years); Planning Board (1 for 1 year); Zoning Board of Adjustment (2 for 3 years); Cemetery Trustees (1 for 3 years).

Results of voting as follows:

Supervisor of Checklist (1 for 6 years) David Hostetler with 234 votes; Trustee of Trust Funds (1 for 3 years) Beverley Tilley with 224 votes; Library Trustee (2 for 2 years) Cheryl Bentley with 215 votes and Nan O'Niel write in with 32 votes; Library Trustee (1 for 3 years) Christine Dixon with 214 votes; Budget Committee (3 for 3 years) Jeffrey Blanchard with 194 votes, Eric Swendsen with 208 votes and Kevin O'Niel write in with 32 votes; Planning Board (1 for 3 years) Jeffrey Blanchard with 189 votes; Planning Board (1 for 1 year) William MacDuffie III write in with 44 votes; Zoning Board of Adjustment (2 for 3 years) Gary Williams write in with 4 votes and John Bentley write in with 3 votes; Cemetery Trustees (1 for 3 years) Debra Bartz with 235 votes.

At 7PM Moderator David Hostetler began the town business meeting. First the invocation was given by Pastor Eric Ekholm from Salisbury Congregational Community Church. After which Moderator Hostetler led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He called for a motion to extend the polling hours until the completion of the business meeting. David Rapalyea made a motion to do so, Piere Ballou seconded the motion. Moderator Hostetler then read the first article as listed above.

Moderator Hostetler read article 2 as follows:

2. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Three Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand and Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$1,382,087) which represents the operating budget recommended by the Budget Committee. This sum does not include the amounts appropriated in special or individual warrant articles in this warrant. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$9.006 per thousand.)

The moderator requested a motion to accept article 2 as written. David Croft made the first motion, Piere Ballou seconded the motion.

Discussion : Selectman Brett Walker gave a brief explanation of the newly added estimated "tax impact" amounts listed with each article in the warrant. In the explanation he explained that the number represented a slightly different amount than what would make sense to the residents. The current rate for taxes in respect to the town budget was \$5.74 per thousand, with the proposed increased budget it would increase to \$5.92. Selectmen Walker then gave a

description of the increases to the budget between 2021 and 2022. There was a cost of living increase for most town employees because no increase was taken last year. There was an \$11,000 increase for tree removal in the cemetery committees' budget. The police budget was increased \$33,000 to increase coverage from 4-8 hours. This was more than originally expected due to the fact the state police bill for 4 hour blocks, even though originally they had planned on increasing to only 6 hours weekly. \$10,000 was also added to the winter maintenance budget. Selectmen Walker said it was true the state police only provide coverage in 4 hours blocks. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote when that discussion ended. The vote passed unanimously in the affirmative. April Rollins made a motion to restrict reconsideration, Randy Wormald seconded the motion. A vote was called, it also passed in the affirmative unanimously.

Moderator Hostetler read article 3 as follows:

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Four Hundred Dollars (\$7,400) to be added to the Reassessment Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1976. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.048 per thousand.)

Selectmen Walker stated this was approximately 2.49 cents per thousand. Pierre Ballou made a motion to accept the article as written, Joseph Schmidl seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 4 as follows:

4. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) be added to the Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1992. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.016 per thousand.) Selectman Walker stated this was approximately one cent per thousand. Piere Ballou made a motion to accept the article as written, David Rapalyea seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 5 as follows:

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400) to be placed in the Defibrillator & Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, established in 2016. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.015 per thousand.) Selectman Walker stated this was approximately one cent per thousand. Piere Ballou made a motion to accept the article as written, Joseph Schmidl seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 6 as follows:

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$49,000) to be added to the Emergency Services/Fire Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established in 1994 and combined in 2019. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.319 per thousand.) Selectman Walker stated this was approximately 19 cents per thousand. David Rapalyea made a motion to accept the article as written, Piere Ballou seconded the motion. Joseph Schmidl asked what the next vehicle to be purchased was. Selectman Walker stated that the fire engine was next. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 7 as follows:

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in the Cistern & Dry Hydrant Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund, established in 2016 and renamed in 2017. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.016 per thousand.) Moderator Hostetler said we were back to about a penny on tax impact. Piere Ballou made a motion to accept the article as written, Judith Elliott seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 8 as follows:

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Seven Hundred Dollars (\$8,700) to be placed in the Air Pack Equipment & Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established in 2016. (The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.056 per thousand.) Selectman Walker stated this was approximately 3.4 cents per thousand. David Merwin made a motion to accept the article as written, Dot Swenson seconded the motion. Eric Swensden asked what an air pack was. Chief William MacDuffie Jr explained that the air packs are the tanks that firefighters use when they enter a building. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 9 as follows:

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1987. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.006 per thousand.) Selectman Walker stated this was less than .5 cents per thousand. David Rapalyea made a motion to accept the article as written, David Kelley seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 10 as follows:

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the

Transfer Station/Recycling Capital Reserve Fund established in 2002 and repurposed in 2020. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article). (Estimated Tax Impact \$.065 per thousand.)

Selectman Walker stated this was about 3.9cents per thousand. Joseph Schmidl made a motion to accept the article as written, Christine Dixon seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 11 as follows:

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to be placed in the Forest Fire Expendable Trust Fund established in 2011. (The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.003 per thousand.)

Selectman Walker stated this was less than .25 cents per thousand. Christine Dixon made a motion to accept the article as written, Sandra Miller seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 12 as follows:

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$27,700) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1974. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.180 per thousand.)

Selectman Walker stated this was about 10.9 cents per thousand. Judy Elliott made a motion to accept the article as written, Dot Swenson seconded the motion. David Croft asked how much was currently in the fund. Selectman Walker stated the amount in this fund was about \$51,000. The town has been warned for a few years that our current road agent will be retiring at some point in the future and this will require some funding for a new highway department. An estimated \$700,000 would be needed just for equipment. The \$27,700 they are requesting is simply the amount that would keep this portion of the budget level funded. This would prepare us for the future, however it would also require land, and some building(s) for the new highway department. Pierre Ballou explained how Andover ended up in a bad situation when their road agent left, he realized this was a good option. It makes sense to plan ahead and for the town to have a highway department for the future. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 13 as follows:

13. Are you in favor of modifying the amounts for the Elderly Exemption from property tax in the Town of Salisbury, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years, \$50,000 (instead of \$40,000); for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, \$75,000 (instead of \$60,000); for a person 80 years of age or older, \$100,000 (instead of \$80,000). To qualify, the person must have been a NH resident for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer, if single, must have a net income of not more than \$40,000; or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. Upon adoption, this elderly exemption modification shall be effective April 1, 2022. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) Pierre Ballou made a motion to accept the article as written, David Rapalyea seconded the motion. Selectman Walker explained that this was a reassessment year and an average increase of 30% was expected. The idea of this increase was to help those elderly people on a fixed income to deal with the possible increase in their assessed value. Eric Swensden asked why there was a 5 year requirement for residency. Selectman Walker stated that he did not know, but it was likely a state requirement for eligibility. Sandy Miller asked if the assessment went back down in the future would it go down as well. Selectman Walker said that it would have to be placed on the warrant again if that happened, it wouldn't be automatic. Alison Thomas asked why it was a dollar amount and not a percentage. Selectman Walker answered that calculation that would not be easy. Pierre Ballou asked if this would require reapplying for the exemption. Town Administrator April Rollins explained that as it is a revaluation year everyone would have to reapply. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 14 as follows:

14. Shall the Town of Salisbury vote, pursuant to RSA 35:9-a, II to authorize the Trustees of the Trust Funds, without further action of the town meeting, to charge any expenses incurred for professional banking or brokerage assistance for capital reserve funds in their custody as authorized in RSA Chapter 35, against the capital reserve funds involved, such authority to remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the town meeting, which said vote to rescind such authority shall not occur within 5 years of the adoption of this article? (Majority vote required.) (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) Joseph Schmidl made a motion to accept the article as written, April Rollins seconded the motion. Selectman Walker explained that currently the town is billed 0.5% for the fees, this comes from the budget and thus money must be

raised each year for this fee. The idea of this article is to have the money taken out of the funds in order to pay these fees. It is common for many funds like this to be paid directly out of the funds themselves. One problem is that on a good year those fees can be more than was budgeted for the previous year, thus causing these fees to cause issues with the budget. Eric Swensden stated that the .5% was a reasonable fee for managing those funds. Randy Wormald asked if the trustees of the trust fund were bonded. Jennifer Hoyt responded that the bank would be bonded, not the trustees. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 15 as follows:

15. To see if the Town will vote to establish an Old Home Days Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of funding Old Home Day activities. All revenues received through Old Home Day participation fees or donations will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance, with Two Hundred and Ninety-Six Dollars (\$296) to come from the unassigned fund balance from the proceeds collected during 2021 Old Home Day activities. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Majority voted required.) (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.)

Joseph Schmidl made a motion to accept the article as written, Judy Elliott seconded the motion. Selectman Walker explained that this would allow the old home day committee to put any money donated to the town into a separate fund. The \$296 was money left over from 2021 that had been deposited back into the general fund. The purpose of this fund is to help offset any funds not from the Town's budget on the line item for old home day. Judy Elliott stated she supported this, she was on the old home day committee for years and they were challenged to keep money for old home day out of the general fund. Sandy Miller asked if that meant that the town would not be funding the old home day. Selectman Walker replied that there is a line item for Old Home Day in the operating budget currently. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 16 as follows:

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800) to be deposited into the Cemetery Maintenance and Operation Trust Fund. Said funds to come from the 12/31/21 unassigned fund balance and not from taxation. Funds are the proceeds of the sale of four (4) rights of interment in 2021. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.)

David Merwin made a motion to accept the article as written, David Kelley seconded the motion. No discussion was held. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 17 as follows:

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund established in 1996. (The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.006 per thousand.)

David Rapalyea made a motion to accept the article as written, Dot Swenson seconded the motion. Kathleen Doyle asked what the current balance was. Selectman Walker replied, \$58,019. Eric Swensden asked if this would be used for the land needed for the Road agent. Selectman Walker replied that it could be used for the purchase of any land that was needed, but it was likely that this would be used for the land for a new highway department. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Moderator Hostetler read article 18 as follows:

18. To hear the reports of the Officers of the town, agents, auditors and committees appointed and pass any vote relating thereto. Joseph Schmidl made a motion to accept the article as written, David Kelly seconded the motion. Selectman John Herbert explained that this article was simply stating that we are accepting the information in the town report.

Moderator Hostetler read article 19 as follows:

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

Albert Laflamme asked about amending article 2, Selectman Walker replied that he was sorry that he had forgotten to have Albert explain the amendment they had wanted to have, however since the article was voted to have reconsideration restricted that it was too late to change article 2. Judy Elliott wanted to thank Moderator Hostetler for doing a wonderful job at his first town meeting. Selectman Walker thanked all the current board members and all volunteers for their service, and reminded everyone that there were still plenty of opportunities for anyone interested. Pierre Ballou thanked everyone for their service, and that we needed to keep baring with it because it was going to be

another tough year. David Merwin thanked the selectmen for their work. Moderator Hostetler thanked everyone for coming and participating. David Rapalyea made a motion to adjourn, Selectman John Herbert seconded the motion. Moderator Hostetler called for a vote, the vote passed unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

James Zink-Mailloux, Town Clerk