

# Warner Town Clerk

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Office Hours  
Monday: 8-4  
Tuesday: 8-6  
Wednesday: 9-4  
Thursday: 8-4

Michele Courser, *Town Clerk*  
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Annual Town Meeting  
Warner Town Hall  
5 East Main St Warner, NH  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Beginning at seven o'clock in the morning and ending at seven o'clock in the evening to elect officers of the Town by official ballot and to act upon the following subjects:

## Article 1

To choose Town officers for the ensuing year.

ALMONERS OF THE FOSTER & CURRIER FUND	1 For 3 Year(s)	Penny Sue Courser	566
BUDGET COMMITTEE	2 For 3 Year(s)	Robert E. Blake	469
		Jonathan Kittredge Lord	468
BUDGET COMMITTEE	1 For 1 Year(s)	Richard Bixby, Jr.	487
CHANDLER RESERVATION COMMITTEE	1 For 4 Year(s)	Allison P. Mock	528
SELECTBOARD	1 For 3 Year(s)	Karen Coyne	236
		*Harry G. Seidel	364
SELECTBOARD	1 For 1 Year(s)	Jody Sloane	437
TRUSTEE OF PILLSBURY FREE LIBRARY	3 For 3 Year(s)	Bradford Bloom	187
		*David Elliott	426
		*Jan Gugliotti	320
		*Lois Shea	416
TRUSTEE OF TOWN CEMETERIES	1 For 3 Year(s)	Kenneth W. Cogswell	533
TRUSTEE OF TOWN CEMETERIES	1 For 2 Year(s)	Thomas Boudett	507
TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUND	1 For 3 Year(s)	W/I Judith Newman-Rogers	11
TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUND	1 For 1 Year(s)	Daniel Watts	494

\*Winner by majority vote

W/I – write in

## Article 2 - Passed

QUESTION 2: YES [ X ] 477      NO [   ] 114

Are you in favor of the following amendment to the Warner Zoning Ordinance: Adoption of the Groundwater Protection Ordinance by amending Articles II and III and adding new Article XI-B “Groundwater Protection District” and adoption of an accompanying map? Recommended by the planning board by a vote of 6-0.

Article 3 - Passed

QUESTION 3: YES [ X ] 384 NO [ ] 197

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to Warner Zoning Ordinance Table 1 Use Regulations to acknowledge that it is a permissive ordinance: “Buildings, structures, or land shall be used as permitted by this ordinance. Any use NOT listed in this ordinance is prohibited”? Recommended by the planning board by a vote of 6-0.

ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT THE TOWN HALL

Ray Martin, the Moderator, called the meeting to Order. Ray asked the audience to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance. Ray asked Ralph Elwell and his group to come up to the stage and play Happy Birthday with kazoos for Warner’s 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The results of the Town, Zoning, and School elections were then announced.

Donald Williams asked residents that have wells, have them tested. Donald found that his well was contaminated.

Sam Bowers reiterated that the Library will have information on Well Test Kits. Sam gave a brief report on the State of the Town, talking about rising prices and the effect that it has on residents and businesses. “Despite all challenges, our community grew. We should be proud of our town, it’s character, and it’s history. Tonight, we will talk about Warner’s future.” Sam, then Thanked the Employees, Residents, and Volunteers, and said that Warner is our Home.

Christine Frost Thanked the three Selectboard Members for their service. Clyde Carson, who served 14 years. Sam J S Bower, who stepped in after someone left the Board mid year. Lois Shea, who stepped in for Clyde, when he took the position of Finance Director.

Ray explained the rules of the meeting. Individuals who speak, will speak to the Moderator and will have 10 minutes. Any person on zoom, will only be able to listen, they cannot participate.

Article 4 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,369,741 (Four Million, Three Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred Forty One Dollars) as the 2023 Operating Budget for the general municipal operations? This amount does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 4. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Michael Cutting gave presentation on Operating budget. Discussion followed.**

James Gaffney asked about the \$300,000 increase in cost service or debt. Michael stated that it was the interest and principle payment from the loan we borrowed.

John McGilvery asked about the Town funds in the bank. Ray talked how the money is swept out every night to maintain Town deposits at Sugar River Bank under \$250,000 FDIC Insurance maximum.

David Bates asked if we had made any money off the Solar Array or recycling. Michael said we are breaking even. When we sell back to Public Service it is at retail price. As retail price goes up, we make more money, we usually break even, we are a little bit ahead this year. The money from recycling has fluctuated drastically from month to month. We are not making the monies we used to make because there is no market for it right now. It is a catch 22 in the recycling business right now.

Charlie Albano asked about money we have made off selling Town owned land. Michael said we have made \$290,000. Three pieces of property and the Fire Station were sold. Charlie asked if we would go thru the same cycle for this year on selling property. Michael said that decision would be up to the Selectboard.

David Gray asked about the salary increase along with the coverage of Insurance. Michael said the increase is 3% cola and 2% merit, along with 100% coverage on Health Insurance and Dental. There is also a Capital Reserve that pays for half of the deductible. David wanted justification on why there was an increase overall. Michael stated that it was to retain employees. David was concerned that the Selectboard decided to approve this without bringing it to town vote.

Trisha Gray asked if the Health coverage was for all employees.

Diane Ricciardelli said it is for only Full time Employees.

Lois Shea Thanked Principal Stokes for providing daycare up at Simond's School, so parents could attend the meeting tonight.

Ray and Nancy THANKED the Town for the Dedication in the Town Report.

**Moderator read Article 4. Motion to Move Article. Article 4 Passed with Voice Vote.**

#### Article 5 - Passed

“To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Warner Community Power plan, to authorize the Selectboard to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Warner Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement to its members. The plan will be funded 100% through electric bills. No tax dollars will be used. At the time of launch, the plan will provide lower electricity rates than those of Eversource for residents, or it will not go forward. Individuals may leave the plan at any time before or after launch, after which re-enrollment becomes voluntary.” Tax Impact: None. (Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 5. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Clyde Carson gave presentation on Article. Discussion followed.**

Bill Hanson questioned that Community Power was 22% less than Eversource, while Direct Energy is 50% lower, why wouldn't Community Power be more competitive?

Clyde said these Companies have attractive rates up front, but include a contract. Because of this, they will make money over time. Community Power may not be the lowest cost provider, but will be consistently lower than the default provider. 80% of people use Eversource.

Seth Henley asked if this in any way effects the rate we get from the power we make from the Solar Array?

Clyde stated that the Solar Array by the Transfer Station and Water Precinct will stay with Eversource, because they have a good deal.

Bob Holmes asked if you have Solar Panels with Eversource, you receive a credit, it is my understanding that you would not be automatically enrolled in Community Power, you would have to opt in?

Clyde stated that is correct.

Bob said at the moment, there is no understanding as to what this deal would do with any credit you get.

George Packard said that no understanding is incorrect. The Coalition is working very hard with Eversource to settle how owners with Solar Panels will enter the program. There is no deal currently. Those details are in progress, they are being worked on, they are very complex.

James Gaffney was concerned that the warrant article stating no tax dollars will be expended, but the agreement itself says the Selectboard shall administer this. The Selectboard are in charge of administering and making things happen. We pay these people out of our tax dollars. How can we say that this isn't going to cost tax payers anything? It simply is not true, because all the people working in Town Hall, using electricity, heating, cooling, phones, and IT to administer this program. The plan itself which is posted on the town website, which the Selectboard allegedly adopted on January 31, 2023 says that Community Power shall not be responsible for any cost, customers who choose not to participate in Warner Community Power shall not be responsible for any cost associated with the program, apart from the incidental cost incurred by the town prior to the point at which the program starts producing revenue from their participating customers. So until they are declared profitable, we are on the hook for this. Everybody, not just the people who remain in the program. The whole plan is predicated on lack of detail. We do not know how much this is going to cost, there is no reference on how the money is going to be handled or where it is going to be deposited. Why are we an early adopter of this, why don't we sit back for a couple years and watch other towns figure out how this happens, let them make the mistakes. If this is still a good idea in a couple years then we can revisit it with a sharpened plan.

Clyde stated there is no cost to the Town. The cost associated is spread across additional rates that you pay as a customer.

Sam stated that the Selectboard will be in the negotiation phase as we go thru finalizing contracts. As of right now, your provider Eversource make the decisions, call the shots, and set the rates. With this program, Warner will have a voice in some of that process. I do want to reiterate the one sentence in this article that does say no tax dollars will be used at the time of launch or it will not go forward.

James said the warrant article says one thing, and we have heard one thing from the sponsors, but the plan is a legal document. The warrant says the Selectboard shall administer, this is a legal document, it is binding, you cannot change this without coming before the town to amend it. The two statements contradict each other. It says that no tax dollars will be spent, but then the Selectboard shall administer. They are in direct conflict with each other.

Sam said the goal of the program is to reduce rates. The Town of Warner will not open its check book. It is part of the Duty of the Selectboard to help its residents and to lower costs for residents that live in town.

Christine Frost said if you look at the RSA's that the Selectboard shall do, it is pretty ominous that we hire people to take care of the roads, etc. and this is just part of the duties.

Bill Balsam said if we can get lower rates from Direct Energy, this doesn't seem like the solution.

David Bates says he was at the Hearing when this Bill was proposed. New Hampshire has a Consumer Advocate for rates, and he came to the Committee Hearing to testify. He said this was New Hampshire's best shot to lower rates. The reason is that Deregulation has never really provided New Hampshire with the promise of lower electric rates. We have some of the most expensive electric rates in the Country.

**Michael Amaral asked to Move the Question. Voice Vote. Motion to Move Question Passed.**

**Martha Mical called for Paper Ballot. Voice Vote. Motion for Paper Ballot Passed.**

**Moderator read Article 5. Paper Ballot. Article 5 Passed Yes – 145, No – 67.**

Article 6 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to cease pursuit of development of sidewalk/multi-use path on route 103 and to reject funding pursuant to previously submitted grant application which requires matching taxpayer funding. Submitted by petition. (Not Recommended by the Selectboard, 0-3.)

**Moderator read Article 6. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Discussion followed.**

James Brown read a statement about how he first found out about the town wanting to put a sidewalk/multi-use path in and the process that was used. James was concerned of the negative impact it would have on the residents. He suggested shoulders on either side of the road, which would be maintained by the State at no cost to the town. Then invest the money into projects that all residents would use or benefit from like the Transfer Station. James said he submitted this warrant article to cease the project.

John Leavitt asked Point of clarification, I read this as no sidewalk/multi-use path.

Ray Martin said that the Warrant Article says cease development of sidewalk/multi-use path, that is correct.

Arlon Chaffee brought up the Master Plan that referenced the Community Survey, and said 75% respondents supported the bicycle and pedestrian path linking Exit 9 to Warner Village. Four Warrant Articles have been presented since 2018 – passed, 2020 – passed, 2021 – passed, and 2022 - failed. Out of the failed article, a recommendation to form a Corridor Committee by the Selectboard. The Corridor Committee was comprised of people that live within the corridor between Roslyn Ave and Exit 9.

Martha Bodnarik added that referring to last years Article, asked for a Committee to study this, and it was defeated. The Selectboard chose to ignore what the Town voted on and have a Study Committee anyway.

John McGilry said he applied for the Corridor Committee, and at the Selectboards’s meeting was informed that if you are against this, you need not apply.

**James Gaffney made a Motion to Move Article. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion to Move Question Passed.**

**James Gaffney called for Paper Ballot. Voice Vote. Motion for Paper Ballot Passed.**

**Moderator read Article 6. Paper Ballot. Article 6 Passed Yes - 104, No – 96.**

Article 7 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 (One hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Fire and Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 7. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Jonathan France talked on Article. Discussion followed. Voice Vote. Article 7 Passed.**

**Ed Mical made a Motion to Restrict Reconsideration on Article 4, 5, 6, 7. Seconded. Passed.**

Article 8 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,800 (Thirty Six Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars) to be added to the previously established Fire Fighter Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 8. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Jonathan France talked on Article.**

**Ed Mical made a Motion to Move Question. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion to Move Question Passed.**

**Moderator read Article 8. Article 8 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 9 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 (One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Bride Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 9. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Tim Allen talked on Article. Discussion followed.**

**Call to Move Question. Article 9 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 10 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 10. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Tim Allen talked on Article. Discussion followed.**

**James Gaffney made a Motion to Move Question. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion to Move Question Passed.**

**Moderator read Article 10. Voice Vote. Article 10 Passed.**

Article 11 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Transfer Station Facility Project Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 11. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Tim Allen talked on Article. Discussion followed.**

**Rebecca Courser made a Motion to Move Question. Seconded. Voice Vote. Motion to Move Question Passed.**

**Moderator read Article 11. Article 11 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 12 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 12. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Tim Allen spoke on Article. Article 12 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 13 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,287 (Thirty Two Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars) to be added to the previously established Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 13. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Lois Shea spoke on Article. Article 13 Passed on a Voice Vote.**

Article 14 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 (Thirty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Improvement Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 14. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Samuel J S Bower spoke on Article. Article 14 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 15 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000 (Twenty Three Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Employees Expendable Health Trust Fund? This Fund is used to partially reimburse participating Town Employees for deductible health expenses. (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 15. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Christine Frost spoke on Article. Article 15 Passed with Voice Vote.**

**Rebecca Courser made a Motion to Restrict Reconsideration on Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. Voice Vote. Restrict Reconsideration Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 16 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Capital Reserve Fund for the Preservation of Records? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 16. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Michele Courser spoke on Article. Article 16 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 17 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 17. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Chief Chandler spoke on Article. Article 17 Passed with Voice Vote**



Article 18 - Passed

Shall the Town vote to establish a Contingency Fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed into the fund? This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. (Recommended by the Budget Committee, 5-0; Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.)

**Moderator read Article 18. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Lois Shea spoke on Article. Article 18 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 19 - Passed

Shall the Town of Warner vote to readopt the provisions of 72:28-b, in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, previously adopted for an All Veterans' Tax Credit, [2017 Adopted RSA 72:28-b All Veteran's Tax Credit \$500 (Article 23)] at \$500.00 per year. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year. (Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**Moderator read Article 19. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Elizabeth Labbe spoke on Article. Article 19 Passed with Voice Vote.**

**James Gaffney made a motion to Restrict Reconsideration on Articles 16, 17, 18, 19. Restrict Reconsideration Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 20 - Passed

Shall the Town of Warner vote to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, previously adopted [2006 Adopted RSA 72:28, II Optional Veteran Credit \$500 (Article 18)], for an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit at \$500.00 per year. If readopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year. (Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**Moderator read Article 20. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Elizabeth Labbe spoke on Article. Article 20 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 21 - Passed

To see if the town will vote to dissolve the Old Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Recommended by the Selectboard, 3-0.) (Majority vote required.)

**Moderator read Article 21. Motion made to Move Article. Seconded. Samuel J S Bower spoke on Article. Article 21 Passed with Voice Vote.**

Article 22

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

Hearing no further business, Moderator asked for a Motion to Adjourn the 2023 Annual Town Meeting of Warner. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele L Courser  
Warner Town Clerk

