

Town of Warner, New Hampshire

NEWS FROM THE TOWN

Spring 2014

Selectmen's Office
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Monday - Wednesday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
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A Review of what passed at Town Meeting

After months of meetings with the Town Administrator and Department Heads, the Warner Budget Committee presents the Town operating budget at Town Meeting for voter approval each year. In addition to the operating budget, the Board of Selectmen presents a number of special warrant articles that address particular obligations, needs and projects that are important to the Town and this year was no different.

At the 2014 Town Meeting voters were presented warrant articles ranging from appropriating funds to be placed into capital reserve funds for future purchases of vehicles and equipment to administrative and "housekeeping" duties that require approval of the voters. This is a brief review of the warrant articles that were presented at this year's Town Meeting with some explanation of the purpose of each article. All the articles except article 21 passed.

Article 7

Shall the Town vote to have rental proceeds from the lease agreement between New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC and the Town for a Communications (Cell) Tower located on Town Forest land off North Road be placed in the general fund?

Purpose: Under current state law, revenue generated by town forests is to be deposited into a special Town Forest fund to be used solely for Town Forest expenses unless directed otherwise by Town vote. This article will direct the revenue earned from the cell tower lease into the general fund town wide expenses.

Article 8

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$124,302.96

Purpose: By state law the Town has to conduct a revaluation of all property in town every five years. The

Town has a service agreement with Marazoff Assessing Services to conduct a full revaluation of all properties in Town except property owned by utilities. This money will go to fund the utility portion of the revaluation. Any unused balance will remain in the fund for the next revaluation in 2020.

Article 9

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the amount of \$45,000.00 (Forty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Exit 9 Improvements Capital Reserve Fund? Current Bal: \$100,679.99

Purpose: The Town has committed most of its one-third share of this project by funding Phase I and Phase II (the concept/design phases). The State is paying for 2/3 of this entire construction project. This amount of \$45,000 reflects approximately 1/2 of the remaining amount of the Town share of expenses for the entire Exit 9 Round-about project. Voters will have the opportunity at next Town Meeting to vote whether the Town should move forward with the construction phase of the Round-about.

Article 10

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,000.00 (One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Highway Road Construction Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$268,286.76

Purpose: The Capital Improvements Plan calls for a major road reconstruction project for Waldron Hill Road, which is estimated to cost approximately \$750,000. This project will need to go through a bid process due to the extensive engineering and construction it requires.

Article 11

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$26,425.55

Purpose: The Capital Improvements Plan calls for the replacement of the road grader in 2015. The present 1999 Galion grader is 15 years old. . We are experiencing some frequent and costly repairs due to age and metal fatigue. We have replaced 2 axles in the past two years and a third axle broke last week.

Article 12

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to add to the already established Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$16,967.84

Purpose: To continue saving for planned replacement of police vehicles. The goal is to replace vehicles before 100K miles or approximately every 4 years. The 2010 cruiser (49,000 miles) is scheduled to be replaced in 2015. The 2007 SUV accumulates the lowest mileage per year and we hope to extend its years of service before replacing it.

Article 13

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 (Seventy Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Fire/Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$100,501.89

Purpose: Saving for a planned replacement of the Freightliner Pumper in 2016, estimated cost is \$350,000. This Pumper will be custom designed to fit in the fire station bays.

Article 14

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 (fifty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Fire Department Building/Renovation Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0; Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 2-4) Current Bal: \$0.00

Purpose: The present fire station needs repair work, including what may be extensive repairs to the roof. Estimates for this repair range from \$23K to 28K. This fund is also used to pay for costs related to the review of building sites or modifications to building designs as to address the concerns raised in the proposed construction

of a new fire station. This article was amended at town meeting to \$25,000 and passed.

Article 15

Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund in accordance with RSA 31:98-a for the current year to be used by the Board of Selectmen for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to go into the fund? This sum is to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$0.00

History /Purpose: In past years a number of towns had a contingency fund in their operating budget and Warner was one of them. However, there wasn't an RSA that allowed for this line item. To rectify this problem, the state legislature passed RSA 31: 98-a, giving authorization for towns to establish a contingency fund to handle unexpected expenses.

In 2013 the Town of Warner exceeded their budget for welfare (by \$6,993) and legal (by \$14,026). State Law requires the town to pay these obligations no matter what the cost or what was budgeted for these expenses. This contingency fund will enable the town to handle overruns such as these without adversely impacting the operating budget of any of the departments.

Article 16

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 (Twenty Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Bridge Replacement & Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$73,513.10

History / Purpose: Warner has 19 bridges according to NH DOT and the town needs to do periodic repair and replacement in some cases. Whenever possible, Warner DPW applies to the Bridge Aid program to obtain partial funding from the State to help defray the costs of these repairs. This year Warner will repair the Bartlett Loop Bridge near the Fish and Game Club under the Bridge Aid program. The State will pay 75% of this project and the Town will pay a 25% share, which is about \$50,464.

Article 17

Shall the Town vote to authorize the creation of The Odd Fellows Building Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of hazard mitigation of this Brownfield site, to raise and appropriate \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be placed in

this Fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$0.00

Purpose: This year's site analysis shows that this building has hazardous materials such as Asbestos, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and lead contamination that the Town must address. This fund will be used to combine with available grant funds to conduct more detailed analysis of contaminated soils that is required and to develop a cost effective clean-up plan that meets NHDES and Federal EPA standards.

Article 18

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$26,093.37

Purpose: The Capital Improvements Plan calls for replacement of the Bobcat loader in 2015 at an estimated cost of \$35,000 and a new container for the main trash compactor this year. The present container is structurally unsound and rusting out. The new container will cost \$6,200.

Article 19

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee) Current Bal: \$12,295.77

Purpose: The Town hall handicap lift is nearly 20 years old and is non-compliant with present Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. The project calls for a new lift box and mechanicals as well as renovation of the doorways on each floor. Approximate cost is \$48,000.

Article 20

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Trustees of the Pillsbury Free Library full duties and powers under RSA 202-A:11 in managing the operation of the Library?

History / Rationale: This is essentially a "House keeping" article that reaffirms the powers and duties given to the Library Trustees by the charter drawn up when the Pillsbury Free Library was founded. The NH Dept. of Revenue Administration recommends that the town pass RSA 202-A:11 to keep the town current with existing RSAs for running the town library.

Article 21- Petition

Shall the Town vote to rescind the Board of Selectmen's authority to act as authorized agents of the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? All expenditures henceforth must be approved by the majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at an annual or special town meeting as per RSA 35:15. (By Petition) Article did not pass.

Article 22 -Petition

RESOLVED, the people of Warner, NH stand with communities across the country to defend democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate power by amending the United States Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the People of Warner, NH hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

(By Petition) article passed

THE TOWN REVALUATION IS STARTING!

The assessing company for Warner, M&N Assessing, has started visiting properties in Warner to do the listing and measuring of each property for the revaluation. This consists of measuring the outside of all buildings and viewing the interior of all major buildings. M&N will be going from attic to basement in each home with an occupant (over 18 years of age) of the home. If you do not feel comfortable letting them in at the time they come please set up an appointment with them to view the interior when it is convenient for others to be there. It is important for the assessor's to view the interiors of all homes, as we then achieve a more accurate revaluation.

To help out before the assessors arrive make a list of the things that you feel are not up to par or that are "wrong" with the property, be sure to give the list to the assessor when he arrives.

The revaluation is not going to be completed until May 2015, new property values will be on the second tax billing in 2015. Thank you all for your cooperation. Remember, it is better to let the assessor in to view the property than to make them guess from afar. If you have any questions or concerns please call Martha at 456-2298 ext 3 or email Martha at assess@warner.nh.us. Office hours are Mon., Tues., & Thurs. 8 am – 1pm.

FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

In last month's elections, citizens voted for John Leavitt to join the Warner Municipal Budget Committee and re-elected Kimberley Brown Edelman for another three year term. John will be filling the seat vacated by newly elected Selectman Allan Brown. We appreciate the contributions Allan provided over the past two years and are looking forward to having John, who has attended several budget meetings as a concerned citizen, join the committee.

Despite a winter storm, over 130 citizens attended Town Meeting. There, they voted to accept the proposed 2014 municipal operating budget of \$2,967,008. This is 2.27% higher than the 2013 budget. Citizens also voted for a 4.62% decrease in capital expenditures. Together, this results in an overall budget increase of 1.23%.

While 1.23% is a small increase, the full formula used to calculate the Warner municipal tax rate needs to be considered. This includes incoming revenues, money set aside specifically for tax abatement / overlay, war service credits, and money applied from the general fund. As done each year, we work with very conservative revenue estimates. The estimates for 2014 are lower than the actual revenues received in 2013. The overlay, which was set at \$50,000 in 2013, is set at four times that this year. This unusually large overlay of \$200,000 is set aside to cover the possibility of a significant abatement linked to a pending case with public services. We'll know more about that as the year progresses. Until then, that money can not be used for anything else. The final tax rate is set in the Autumn.

The 2014 - 2015 budget season of meetings and discussions gets underway with the first meeting on April 24 at 7pm at the Town Hall. The public is always welcome to attend and participate in discussions.

PILLSBURY FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Library Trustees:

Welcome to our new and returning Trustees Sara McNeil, Caroline Hatala, and Jeanne Hand. Heartfelt thanks to outgoing members Lynn Perkins, Joan Warren and David Pook, all of whom contributed a great deal of time and knowledge to the Board.

Library Trustees meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in the Frank Maria Meeting Room. All meetings are open to the public.

Don't miss "Alice in Wonderland, the library's "Book Nook Theater Group" play" on May 3 at 4 pm at Warner Town Hall. Admission to the play will be by donation to the food pantry. Children's Librarian Sue Matott is directing this

group of students from grades 4 and up. Volunteers Kendra West-Senor and Nancy O'Leary are helping this year.

Museum Passes Available:

Of special interest at the MFA in Boston: an exhibit of quilts from the Pilgrim/Roy collection. Mr. Roy is a resident of Warner. His doll and baby quilts will be on display in the Fall at the Warner Historical Society.

All year you can choose from the Museum of NH History, the McAuliffe-Shephard Discovery Center, the Currier museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts. The NH Telephone Museum is open Tuesdays and Saturdays in April, full time in May. Also in May the Fells and the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum will also be available again. Links to all their sites can be found at <http://warner.lib.nh.us/museum-passes> for more information on hours and exhibits, and directions.

Actress Sally Matson returns to Warner as famous WW2 photographer Margaret Bourke-White in a chatauqua-style program on May 21 at 1:30 PM at Warner Town Hall, admission is free. This is the same program she offers through the NH Humanities Council, but grants are finished for 2014 so this program is cosponsored by the Pillsbury Free Library, the Warner Historical Society, the Mountain View Senior Center and Brown Memorial Library in Bradford, and the Newbury Public Library. (Donations are welcome).

Story time for preschoolers:

Held every Thursday at 10:30 AM. No registration required. Monthly after School Crafts: grades K – 5, Wednesdays at 3:30 pm, April 16, May 14. Call 456-2289 to pre-register.

Free eBooks:

Want to try free eBooks or downloadable audio books but don't have a tablet, phone or computer? You can borrow our Kindle, Nook, or audio book players (if over 18). If you have your own device, just contact us to get your new card number then visit our website warner.lib.nh.us to find the link.

Public Service of NH Grant

Work is expected to begin in April or May on replacing and/or retrofitting lighting fixtures to reduce energy use, with PSNH matching funds.

SIGNS OF SPRING! The spring bulbs planted last Fall by the GEAR-UP homeschool group at the South side of the library are beginning to poke out their heads and may be in bloom when you read this!

The Library will be closed Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day) and Saturday, July 5 (Independence Day).

NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

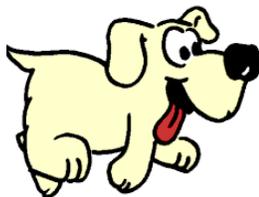
First, we would like to wish everyone “Happy Spring”, warmer days are coming.

If you are new to town, please note that you have 10 days to change your address. If you are moving from another town in New Hampshire, it’s as simple as bringing in proof of residency and filling out a form.

Because of the primary in September, there will be no party changes after June 3rd. So please make sure you are in the party you wish to vote in.

Be prepared for boating season and register your boat with us, which keeps the money in town.

Just a reminder, it is that time of year to license your dog, renewal’s can be completed on line or during scheduled office hours. A copy of the up to date rabies vaccine is also required when licensing your dog(s).



NEWS FROM THE KEARSARGE SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Don West, Principal of the Kearsarge Middle School, explained that more support is needed for the Parent Teachers Organization. There is over \$9,000 in the PTO fund raising account. I would encourage the parents, and soon to be middle school parents, contact Mr. West at 927-2100 and express your support to be an active member of the organization. The PTO allows parents and teachers to come together and enrich the educational experience for our children.

This month the Simonds Elementary School held a curriculum fair at the school. We got to tour all of the grades to understand how the students were learning the different subjects. I found it most informative and the teachers were very helpful. The science room was very active with lots of experiments.

The teachers teamed up with the United Church of Warner and created a wonderful soup counter. We got to taste four different kinds of homemade soups. They were very tasty. We even got to take the ingredients home of one of the soups in a reusable canning jar. I cooked up the ingredients according to the recipe that was also provided. The soup is great. Thank you all for putting on a fine event for us.

Joe Mendola
Warner Representative to the Kearsarge School Board.

7TH ANNUAL SPRING INTO WARNER!

The WARNER group of the Kearsarge Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes spring with a family-oriented arts festival in Warner from 9am to 3pm on Saturday May 17. The town will be filled with art, music, crafts and more for all to enjoy.

Local artists will demonstrate and musicians will perform at venues along Main Street. See performances by the Kearsarge Community Band, the Rooftop Five, and more. Watch dance demonstrations and workshops by the Kearsarge Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Town Hall. There will be lots for kids to do with a crafts and activity tent, the “Touch A Truck” demonstration at the Warner Power parking lot, and story hour at the Pillsbury Free Library. Carriage rides with Brian Erickson’s beautiful team will be operating between the United Church of Warner and the Town Hall between 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Shops will be open and hosting activities all day.

MainStreet BookEnds will be celebrating the American Book Seller’s Association’s first annual “Read A Book Day” with local authors reading from their favorite book. Local museums will be open for the day with their “Along the River” exhibits. The Upton Chandler House Museum will have an “Antique Tool” demonstration on their front lawn. The NH Telephone Museum will be open for free and are inviting guests to use their artistic talents to express how the telephone has impacted their lives. Local Motion Studio will demo some of their classes including Yoga and Zumba

Look for a good springtime deal at the Warner Historical Society barn sale and the book sale at MainStreet BookEnds to benefit the Jim Mitchell Park. The Warner Farmer’s Market will be open featuring spring veggies and music. Warner River Organics will be selling spring plants for your vegetable and flower gardens. Rollins State Park will be open that day so plan to include a hike up beautiful Mt. Kearsarge in your day’s activities. In the evening join the MainStreet Warner Inc. Fundraising auction festivities for the Jim Mitchell Park at MainStreet Bookends.

For more information email siw@kearsargechamber.org and check www.KearsargeChamber.org/Warner for a complete listing of activities, times and places.



ATTENTION
**Street sweeping will
begin the week of
April 21!**



SAVE THIS DATE!
SPRING INTO WARNER

Saturday

May 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

www.kearsargechamber.org

www.warnerblog.com