

2024 TOWN WARRANT
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Annual Meeting, Town of Hollis

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Hollis in the County of Hillsborough in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs. You are hereby notified to meet at the Lawrence Barn Community Center on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, for the purpose of choosing town officers elected by an official ballot and other action required to be inserted on said official ballot and, further, to meet at the Hollis Brookline Cooperative High School in said Town on, Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 9:00 AM, for the second session of the town meeting for the transaction of all other town business, specifically to act on the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1 - Officials Reports

To hear reports of the Board of Selectmen, other Town Officers and Committees.

ARTICLE 2 – Silver Lake Phosphorus Reduction Study/Design

Shall the Town of Hollis vote to raise and appropriate \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to hire a Certified Lake Management / Engineering Firm to study conditions and provide design solutions to reduce external and internal phosphorus loading in Silver Lake -- to prevent future cyanobacteria blooms in the lake? And to authorize the issuance of not more than \$100,000 of bonds or notes in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended, with the amount of such bonds or notes to be reduced by any grant funding received for the project, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. It is anticipated that there will be \$100,000 in principal loan forgiveness, under the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund (NH CWSRF). The interest on this loan will be paid in full by a donation from the Silver Lake Improvement Association Water Quality Fund. Fiscal Impact Note: The Tax Impact associated with this will be \$0.00 per \$1,000 valuation. Any and all interest accrued prior to loan forgiveness and administrative costs has been negotiated to be paid by the Silver Lake Improvement Association and held in an escrow account. Estimated Tax Impact \$0.00 per Thousand. (3/5 Ballot Vote Required.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 3 – Elderly Exemption Modification

Shall the town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Hollis, based on assessed value, for qualified full time resident tax payers to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$272,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$312,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$368,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years preceding April 1st, 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 at least five consecutive years.

In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income, as that term is defined in RSA 72:39-a, in each applicable age group of not more than \$63,500 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$72,500 and own net assets not in excess of \$198,000; excluding the value of the person's actual residence and the land upon which it is located up to the greater of 2 acres or the minimum single family residential lot size specified in the local zoning ordinance. (Majority Vote Required.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 4 – The Farley Building Community Center

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate no more than \$300,000 for the purpose of further renovations to the Farley Building Community Center by funding a complete construction and bid management package to be used relative to a request for proposal for the work. This funding will include the following Conceptual and Schematic Design, Design, and Development, as well as Complete Electrical, Structural, and Construction Documents. (Majority Vote Required.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 5 – Town Clerk Compensation

To see if the Town will vote, as authorized by RSA 41:25, to compensate the position of elected Town Clerk with a combination of statutory fees and an hourly rate for election work. If approved, the Clerk will be compensated \$30.08 per hour for work associated with election duties, plus statutory fees beginning on March 18, 2024. (Majority Vote Required.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 7-0-1

ARTICLE 6 – Facility Space Needs Assessment for the Police and Fire Stations

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate no more than \$35,000 for the purpose of a facility space needs assessment for the Police and Fire Station. (Majority Vote Required.)

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 7 – Excavator Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed \$300,000 for the purpose of purchasing one (1) excavator with attachments for the Public Works Department. (Majority Vote Required.)

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 8 – Enterprise Town Vehicle Lease

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Master Equity Lease and Fleet Management Agreement for the purchase, maintenance, and sale of passenger vehicles for the Town of Hollis, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,110 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Further, to establish a Fleet Management Committee to oversee the Town's rolling stock of vehicles and replacement thereof. Participation in the agreement and the Committee will remain until rescinded. All proceeds from vehicle sales will offset the acquisition cost of the replacement vehicles. (Majority Vote Required.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

IF ARTICLE 8 FAILS

ARTICLE 9 – Police Vehicle Lease Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board pursuant to RSA 33:7-e to enter into a three (3) year lease purchase agreement for the sum of \$370,332 for the purpose of lease purchasing six (6) vehicles for the Police Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$123,444. for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease purchase agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority Vote Required.)

FY24	FY25	FY26	TOTAL
\$123,444	\$123,444	\$123,444	\$370,332

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 10 – Cemetery Expansion Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be placed in the Cemetery Expansion Expendable Trust Fund as previously established at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. (Majority Vote Required.)

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 11 – Old Home Day Special Revenue Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of sponsoring the Old Home Days event and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from the Old Home Day Special Revenue Fund. This article will not affect the tax rate, as these funds will be raised from fees and donations. (Majority Vote Required.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 12 – Compensated Absences Payable Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be placed in the Compensated Absences Payable Expendable Trust Fund as previously established at the 2002 Annual Town Meeting. (Majority Vote Required.)

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 13– Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,500 to be placed in the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund as previously established at the 1996 Annual Town Meeting. (Majority Vote Required.)

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 14 – Municipal Buildings & Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to be placed in the Municipal Buildings and Facilities Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund as previously established at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting and amended by the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. (Majority Vote Required.)

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 15 – Establish a Contingency Fund

To see if the Town will authorize the establishment of a contingency fund under the provisions of RSA 31:98-a for the purpose of funding unanticipated expenses that may arise during the year. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate \$70,000 towards this purpose and appoint the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote Required.)

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 16 – 2024 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,160,524 which represents the operating budget of the Town for 2024, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately. (Majority Vote Required.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 17 – Petition Article – Adopted Election Integrity Measure Hand Count Ballots

Shall The Following Provisions Pertaining To Elections be Adopted? All Voting Shall Be By Paper Ballot And All Ballots Shall Be Hand Counted Only, Rather Than By Use Of Optical Scanning Or Any Other Types Of Programmable Electronic Counting Devices. This Shall Constitute A Return To Hand Counting Ballots And The Immediate Discontinuance Of All Electronic Voting Machines And Electronic Devices Authorized For Use By Trial In RSA 656:40. Shall This Article Be Passed, It Shall Be Enacted By The Town of Hollis New Hampshire Immediately.

ARTICLE 18 – To Transact Any Other Business That May Legally Come Before Said Meeting.

Given under our hands and seal this **12th day of February 2024**. A true copy of Warrant – Attest:

David Petry, Chairman

Susan Benz, Vice-Chairman

Mark Le Doux

Joe Garruba

Tom Whalen

Select Board
Town of Hollis, NH

TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR HOLLIS, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Posting Certification

We hereby certify that we gave notice to the inhabitants within named, to meet at the time and place and for the purpose within mentioned, by posting an attested copy of the attached Warrant at the Hollis Town Office, Hollis Brookline High School and Hollis Town website, www.hollisnh.org on February 12, 2024.

David Petry, Chairman

Susan Benz, Vice-Chairman

Mark Le Doux

Joe Garruba

Tom Whalen

Select Board
Town of Hollis, NH