

2023 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 14, 2023, 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 18, 2023, 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 – Issuance for Long Term Debt for Land Acquisition for Recreation Facilities

Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the Budget Committee. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) to acquire approximately 12 acres off Witches Spring Road, Map 046 Lot 049-001, for the construction of two rectangular playing fields to include acquisition of the property in fee simple, surveying, subdivision, field design, well drilling and irrigation system installation; all electrical, appropriate fencing, installation of an adequate septic system, parking for up to 150 vehicles, playground equipment and a Field House for concessions sales and equipment storage and adequate restroom facilities, and to authorize the issuance of up to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) of bonds or notes for such purpose in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds and/or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof. The Select Board is hereby authorized to apply for, obtain and accept any applicable Federal, State, Private Donations or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project, to take any and all action necessary to carry out any vote hereunder or take any other action relative thereto. By ballot vote (Requires 3/5 vote to pass).

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

NOT Recommended by Budget Committee 4-4-0

ARTICLE 3 – Land Acquisition – Burton Property

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$275,000 to acquire full ownership interest to certain tracts of land or parcels of land, in the Town of Hollis on such terms and conditions as determined by the Board of Selectmen. The Burton Property, a 14.12 acre parcel located on Rocky Pond Road adjacent to the Hollis transfer station. The intention is to purchase 4+ acres from the Hollis Conservation Commission to provide for future expansion of the transfer station. The aforementioned intent was contemplated by all parties and reduced to writing in a Warranty Deed from George R. Burton and Gloria J. Burton to the Town of Hollis. Said Deed can be found at Book 9588, Page 79.

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2022.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

NOT Recommended by Budget Committee 2-6-0

ARTICLE 4 – Four Firefighter/EMT Positions

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$222,728 for the purpose of hiring four new full time Firefighter/EMT employees, including estimated benefit expenses and equipment, beginning in July 2023.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 7-1-0

ARTICLE 5 – Collective Bargaining Agreement, Local 1801 (Town Hall/DPW)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Town of Hollis and AFSCME Local 1801, and in doing so, to approve the cost items within said agreement, which calls for the following increases for salaries and benefits over what was raised under any current agreements for the employees of the Union and, further, to raise and appropriate the amount of \$25,640 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The 2024 and 2025 costs associated with the agreement will be included in the respective operating budgets.

FY23	FY24	FY25	TOTAL
\$25,640	\$57,948	\$91,663	\$175,251

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 5-3-0

ARTICLE 6 – Collective Bargaining Agreement, Local 3657 (Police/Fire Communications)

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Town of Hollis and AFSCME Local 3657, and in doing so, to approve the cost items within said agreement, which calls for the following increases for salaries and benefits over what was raised under any current agreements for the employees of the Union and, further, to raise and appropriate the amount of \$156,050 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The 2024 and 2025 costs associated with the agreement will be included in the respective operating budgets.

FY23	FY24	FY25	TOTAL
\$156,050	\$304,332	\$447,907	\$908,289

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 5-3-0

ARTICLE 7 – Cemetery Expansion Expendable Trust Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Expansion Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for funding future cemetery expansion efforts, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in this fund, and to name the Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend from said fund.

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2022.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 8 – Solar Exemptions

Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:61-64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying solar energy system equipment under these Statutes.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 9 – Readoption of Optional Veteran's Tax Credit

Shall the Town of Hollis approve the readoption of the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:28 II) to allow for the expansion of the criteria needed to qualify for the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit of \$750 to now include those service members that are currently serving and have not yet been honorably discharged from the armed services. The readoption of the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit, if approved would continue to offer a \$750 tax credit to all honorably discharged Veterans that qualify under the current requirements but as of April 1, 2023, it would expand the eligibility requirements to now include those individuals that have not yet been discharged from active service.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 7-0-1

ARTICLE 10 – Readoption of the All Veteran's Tax Credit

Shall the Town of Hollis approve the readoption of the All Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:28.b) to allow for the expansion of the criteria needed to qualify for the All Veteran's Tax Credit of \$750 to now include those service members that are currently serving and have not yet been honorably discharged from the armed services. The readoption of the All Veteran's Tax Credit, if approved would continue to offer a \$750 tax credit to all honorably discharged Veterans that qualify under the current requirements of (RSA 72:28.b) but as of April 1, 2023, it would expand the eligibility requirements to now include those individuals that have not yet been discharged from active service.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 6-0-2

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.

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.

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2022.

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 \$14,000 to be placed in the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund as previously established at the 1996 Annual Town Meeting.

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2022.

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.

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2022.

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.

Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2022.

No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 7-1-0

ARTICLE 16 – 2023 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,275,057 which represents the operating budget of the Town for 2023, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by Budget Committee 8-0-0

ARTICLE 17 – Petition Article for Town Clerk Compensation

As per RSA 41:25 to see if the Town will vote to begin compensating the position of Elected Town Clerk on an hourly rate and discontinuing the current practice of compensating the Clerk's position on a total fee basis. If approved, the Town Clerk will be compensated at an hourly rate set by the Select Board, beginning March 20, 2023. In turn, the Town would begin receiving any and all fees currently being collected by the Town Clerk, including any future increases in said fees.

ARTICLE 18 – Petition Article for Hollis to Join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire

We, the Town of Hollis hereby call upon the Board of Selectman of Hollis to pursue a Joint Powers Agreement with the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (<https://www.cpcnh.org/about>). By joining with current members of the Coalition (the cities of Nashua, Portsmouth, Dover, and Lebanon; and the towns of Durham, Enfield, Exeter, Harrisville, Hanover, Hudson, New London, Newmarket, Peterborough, Plainfield, Pembroke, Rye, Wamer, Walpole, and Webster; and Cheshire County), Hollis will be able to negotiate for lower electric rates and improved services from electric power suppliers. This will result in lower electric bills for Hollis citizens. It will also result in lower electric bills for the Town, which should result in lower citizens' taxes.

ARTICLE 19 – Petition Article for New Hampshire Resolution to Take Action on Climate Pollution

We the Town of Hollis hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire's natural resources upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Hollis's State Legislators, to the Governor of New Hampshire, to Hollis's Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by Hollis's Select Board, within 30 days of this vote.

ARTICLE 20 – Petition Article to Pave Rocky Pond Road

We, the undersigned residents of Rocky Pond Road in Hollis, NH and other Hollis residents respectfully request that the Town of Hollis pave Rocky Pond Road as soon as possible.

We request this for a number of reasons, including but not limited to the following, many of which affect many town residents, in addition to Rocky Pond Road residents. Paving Rocky Pond Rd would benefit other town residents in addition to those of us living on Rocky Pond Rd.

1. The dust and dirt that traveling vehicles raise during dry weather not only is a health issue for anyone breathing in the dust, but enters homes and leaves behind residue and/or prohibits opening windows for fresh air. This is a serious and demonstrable health concern, especially for our children who play outside frequently. This was a major issue all of 2020 summer.
2. The school bus for Primary and Lower Elementary will not drive to the unpaved road. This means the children either need to walk for a mile in a muddy, dusty, unsafe road, or have someone drive them to the nearest bus stop at the Hayden Rd intersection. This affects a number of kids that live on the unpaved side of Rocky Pond Rd.
3. Rain or melting snow and ice causes long ruts and potholes that make steering vehicles difficult and potentially dangerous.
4. Within a few days of being graded, the large ruts and potholes reappear, making repeated and frequent resurfacing a waste of time and money. Paving would resolve it efficiently, long term.
5. The large ruts and potholes cause excessive noise, especially from any large trucks passing to Brookline. As Rocky Pond is a cut-through road, it exacerbates the dust, mud/ rut and noise issues.
6. The ruts and potholes cause excessive damage to vehicles including tire wear, frequent front-end alignments, shocks, struts and many other expensive repairs, particularly to residents of Rocky Pond, which have to drive over them regularly.

Paving Rocky Pond Road will relieve the above problems, inconveniences and health issues as well as save the Town money and maintenance issues in the future.

ARTICLE 21 – To Transact Any Other Business That May Legally Come Before Said Meeting.