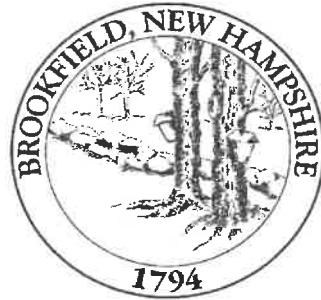


Warrant – Town Meeting March 8, 2022



State of New Hampshire

The Town was well-represented by 150 registered voters, who turned out on March 8, 2022 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm to vote by ballot for Articles 1 through 4. On Saturday, March 12, 2022, 43 voters were in attendance for the 228th Town Meeting to act on Articles 5 through 16.

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm, then invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to honor our deceased townspeople.

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the coming year - *By Ballot.*

For Selectman – 3 years

Brian Robischeau 96 votes

For Trustee of Trust Fund – 3 years

Meg Ingalls 6 votes

For Cemetery Trustee – 3 years

Kate Niewenhous 52 votes

For Moderator – 2 years

Rose Zacher 8 write-in votes

For Planning Board – 3 years (vote for 2)

Terry Ward 121 votes

Kerry McMenamy 15 write-in votes

For Tax Collector – 3 years

Diana Peckham 134 votes

For Town Clerk – 3 years

Karen Servacek 140 votes

For Treasurer – 3 years

Joanne Dolbear 120 votes

For Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 years

Maryann Lynch 14 write-in votes

2. By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Brookfield, NH to see if the town will amend Article II A.3. of the Town Zoning Ordinance to include the following paragraph:
- a. For all lots that are less than two acres in area included in the Cedar Park subdivision as defined by the plan of record recorded on July 9, 1962, at Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Book 6 page 68 the setback for structures shall be 15 feet or greater from the side and rear lot lines. *(Majority Vote Required) Petition warrant article. – By Ballot- The Planning Board approves of this petition.*

Yes: 124 No: 23

3. Are you in favor of Amendment #1 to the Brookfield Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: To amend RA-1, Section 3C to clarify that frontage on Class I-IV roads, Class V or private roads satisfies the frontage requirement. *(Majority Vote Required) – By Ballot*

Yes: 108 No: 36

4. Are you in favor of Amendment #2 to the Brookfield Zoning Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board as follows: Amend Article VII Personal Wireless Services Facilities to bring it into conformance with RSA 12-K. Specifically, the Article will only apply to new or substantially modified PWSFs, but co-location and modification applications shall be required to comply with and will be reviewed consistent with RSA 12-K. *(Majority Vote Required) - By Ballot*

Yes: 117 No: 19

5. To see if the Town will designate the Selectmen as agents to expend funds from the Common Expendable Trust account titled “Town Building Office Equipment.” *(Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

Tabled.

Selectman Richard Zacher verified that the Article is redundant as the Board of Selectman were previously assigned as agents by Warrant Article passed on March 14, 2006

6. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the additional sum of **\$1,000** for the annual salary of Town Clerk. The current salary is \$14,000; this would raise the annual salary to \$15,000 *(Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

Discussion: The increase will better align with salaries for other state Town Clerks.

Motion was made and seconded to amend the Article:

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$2,500 for the annual salary of the Town Clerk. The current salary is \$14,000. This would raise the annual salary to \$16,500.

Discussion: The increase is requested to compensate the Town Clerk for time and knowledge required to complete increasingly complex duties.

The amendment passed. The amended Article was read and passed as read.

7. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the additional sum of **\$1,000** for the annual salary of Town Tax Collector. The current salary is \$14,000; this would raise the annual salary to \$15,000 (*Majority Vote Required*). *The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

Discussion: The increase will better align with the salaries for other Tax Collectors

Motion was made and seconded to amend the Article:

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$2,500 for the annual salary of the Tax Collector. The current salary is \$14,000. This would raise the annual salary to \$16,500.

The amendment passed. The amended Article was read and passed as read.

8. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the additional sum of **\$2,500** for the annual salary of Town Treasurer. The current salary is \$12,500; this would raise the annual salary to \$15,000. (*Majority Vote Required*). *The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

Discussion: The increase will better reflect required time and duties of the Treasurer and align with the salaries of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

Motion was made and seconded to amend the Article:

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$4,000 for the annual salary of Town Treasurer. The current salary is \$12,500. This would raise the annual salary to \$16,500.

Discussion: The Treasurer's duties have expanded requiring additional hours and expertise to complete duties, which should be considered for additional compensation.

The amendment passed. The amended Article was read and passed as read.

9. To see if the Town will vote to increase the hourly salary rate for Supervisors of the Checklist from \$16.00 per hour to \$18.00 per hour. (*Majority Vote Required*). *The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

The article was amended for appropriate wording required by the DRA:

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$1,000 to increase the hourly salary rate for the Supervisors of the Checklist from \$16.00 per hour to \$18.00 per hour. (Majority vote required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

The amendment passed. The amended Article was read and passed as read.

10. To see if the Town will vote to increase the hourly salary rate for the Moderator as an elected official from \$15.50 per hour to \$20.00 per hour. (*Majority Vote Required*). *The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

The Article was amended for appropriate wording required by the DRA:

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$1,000 to increase the hourly salary rate for the Moderator as an elected official from \$15.50 per hour to \$20.00 per hour. (Majority vote required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

The amendment passed. The amended Article was read and passed as read.

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be deposited into the Moose Mountain Capital Reserve Fund I. (Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Discussion: The Moose Mountain Road bridge requires repair with current estimates from \$350,000 - \$450,000. The current fund balance is \$145,000, and the additional money will be deposited in the reserve fund to save toward the repairs as additional potential grant opportunities are pursued.

The Article passed as read.

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** to be deposited into the Road and Bridge Repair Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Discussion: The additional dollars will be added to the current balance projects.

The Article passed as read.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000** for the major repair of Town Roads and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from the Road and Bridge Repair Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Discussion: The withdrawal is for paving and repairs. The philosophy is to maintain the roads each year and selection of projects will be based on the road condition and cost of work. There were no paving projects done last year. Frank Frazier added that Clark Road is expected to have paving improvements at the railroad tracks this year funded by a grant from the State of New Hampshire to the Cotton Valley Rail Trail Committee.

The Article passed as read.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of not more than **\$10,000** for professional restoration of Town Record Book Nine, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing withdrawal of **\$3,598.30** from the Records Preservation Capital Reserve Fund (fund balance \$3,598.30 as of 12/31/2021), with the balance of \$6,401.70 to be raised by taxation. (Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Discussion: This is an ongoing project to secure the Town history by restoration of the original Town Record Books. This will be the 6th book preserved with 3 remaining to be restored.

Motion to amend the Article and seconded:

To raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the professional restoration of Town Record Book Nine and to partially fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of any remaining funds in the Records Preservation Capital Reserve Fund. This article is adopted subsequent to Article 15.

The amendment passed. The amended Article was read and passed as read.

15. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Records Preservation Capital Reserve Fund created in 1997. Said funds are to be expended as noted in Warrant #14 and any remaining balance to be transferred to the Town's Operating Budget. *(Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

Discussion: The Records Preservation Capital Reserve Fund will be removed, and the remaining funds put into the General Fund to be expended on the completion of the restoration and preservation of the Town Record Books.

The Article passed as read.

16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** for the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund to be deposited of said sum into the Property Re-Evaluation Capital Reserve Fund. *(Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

The article was amended for appropriate wording required by the DRA:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to be added to the Property Re-Valuation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

The amendment passed. The amended Article was read and passed as read.

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** to be withdrawn from the Town House Capital Reserve Fund for the repair of the windows and to finish the painting. *(Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

The article was amended for appropriate wording required by the DRA:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the repair of the windows and to finish the painting with said amount to come from the Town House Capital Reserve Fund (Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

Discussion: The expenditures for the project was voted in last year's budget but not used.

The amendment passed. The amended Article was read and passed as read.

18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Selectmen's recommended sum of **\$1,094,149** for the Town Operating Budget. Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed in this Warrant. *(Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

Discussion: Concern about the increase in the salary for the Code Enforcement Officer position and a recommendation that it be decreased in the final budget. The Moderator recessed the meeting for 5 minutes for an Amendment to be drafted.

Motion to amend Article and seconded:

To see if the Town will vote to reduce the Town Budget MS-636 line 4240-4249 from \$11,500 to \$9,500.

The amended Article was read and failed.

Motion was made to amend the Article and seconded to reflect the final budget:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Selectmen's recommended sum of \$1,096,149 for the Town Operating Budget. Said sum does not include special or individual articles addressed in this warrant. *(Majority Vote Required). The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.*

The amended Article was read and passed.

Additional Business:

Frank Frazier proposed the Town consider developing a Budget Committee based on growth in the Town and complexity of budget needs, which can be created by Warrant Article next year by either the Selectmen or Petition of 25 registered voters.

William Nelson requested the yard behind the Town Hall and Office Buildings be maintained to improve the public appearance of the property, including removal of unused vehicles and equipment. The Selectman will address the issue.

Richard Peckham recognized the work of the Heritage Commission and Board of Selectmen to restore the Town Hall, specifically the recent plastering and painting.

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen E. Servacek
Brookfield Town Clerk