

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF RUMNEY
WARRANT for 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, welcomed the residents to the Town of Rumney 2023 Business Session of the Town Meeting. The meeting was officially called to order and opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, introduced the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Supervisors of the Checklist, and the attending Officer.

Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, then read the Warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Rumney in the County of Grafton and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 14th day of March 2023, next, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning, at which time the polls shall be opened for balloting on Article 1 and shall close not earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening, and you are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Thursday, the 16th day of March 2023, next, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting, for the purpose of discussion, debate, and final action, upon the remaining Articles in this Warrant.

A motion was made and put to the floor and seconded, to allow non-residents, Transfer Station Superintendent Milton (Sonny) Ouellette, Highway Department head Nick Coursey, and Fire Chief Evan Hacker, to speak at the meeting. The motion passed with a majority vote.

Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, then went over the instructions for how the Town Meeting will be run. Supervisors of the Checklist handed out Voter Index Cards to registered Town voters that are to be used for voting during the Town Meeting.

Article 1: Choose Necessary Town Officers

To choose all Necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 14th):

Selectman for 3-year term

Isaac DeWever - 148

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3-year term

Mark Andrew – 199

Cemetery Trustee for 3-year term

Wayne Farnsworth – 209

(2) Planning Board Members for 3-year terms

John Dow – 202

Josh Keyes – 67

Fire Commissioner for 3-year term

Dave Coursey - 140

Library Trustee for 3-year term

Lori Eaton - 72

Library Trustee for 2-year term

Article 2: Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$132,500.00 to be added to the following previously established Capital Reserve Funds. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (Majority vote required)

Police Department Fund (1986)	\$5,000.00
Highway Equipment Fund (1961)	\$40,000.00
Town Facilities Improvement (1987)	\$10,000.00
Fire Department Fund (1963)	\$40,000.00
EMS Vehicle (2005)	\$2,500.00
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	\$15,000.00
Transfer Station Equipment (2008)	\$1,000.00
Fire Department Equipment (2009)	\$7,000.00
EMS Major Equipment (2012)	\$1,000.00
Cemetery Improvement (2014)	\$10,000.00
Office Equipment (2015)	\$1,000.00
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$132,500.00

Article 2 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, the Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 3: Fire Truck Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$550,000.00 to purchase a replacement Fire Truck and authorize the withdrawal of \$550,000.00 for this purpose from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1963). The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (Majority vote required)

Article 3 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Selectman, Isaac DeWever made a motion to amend the Article to the price of \$525,000.00 and the amount to be withdrawn from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve to be \$525,000.00. Motion to accept the amended Article was moved and seconded. Kim Ganley asked for the current funds in the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund and was the \$40,000.00 being raised in 2023 already included in that amount. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell referred to Mark Andrew, Trustee of the Trust Funds. Mark read the year-end balance from the Annual Report and stated the \$40,000.00 will be added to the current dollar amount in the Fund.

A motion was made and seconded to bring the Amendment to the floor.

The Moderator read the Article as amended. The vote to amend Article 3 passed with a majority vote.

Article 3 was re-read as amended. The Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Deb Maes asked if this was a different truck from last year. Selectman Isaac DeWever explained that it's slightly less expensive, but just as good of a truck. Better truck, less money. Bob Berti explained the add-ons included on the truck last year weren't guaranteed for the price. The Selectmen agreed on a price limit of \$525,000.00. Fire Chief Evan Hacker stated the manufacturer shortened the build days, and they also made some adjustments to get the price down. Majority vote required.

With no further discussion, the Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 4: General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$555,661.00 to defray the following General Government Expenses for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Executive	\$100,174.00
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$101,300.00
Supervisors of Checklist	\$2,960.00
Financial Administration	\$59,630.00
Legal Expense	\$25,000.00
Health Insurance	\$150,000.00
Planning Board	\$14,311.00
General Government Buildings	\$63,035.00
Streetlights	\$10,000.00
Property/Liability/WC	\$27,001.00
Regional Dues	\$2,250.00

Article 4 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 5: Old Home Day

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000.00 for the purpose of Old Home Day celebration. This Special Warrant Article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Old Home Day is completed or by March 12, 2027, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Article 5 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 6: Cemetery

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 34,075.00 for the operation of the Cemeteries for the ensuing year; \$5,000.00 to come from the Cemetery Trust Fund and \$29,075.00 be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this Special Article. (Majority vote required)

Article 6 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 7: Cemetery Maintenance Trust

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a, to be funded by the sale of cemetery lots pursuant to RSA 289:2-a, along with any interest gained thereon, for the maintenance of cemeteries; and further to name the Rumney Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (Majority vote required)

Article 7 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 8: Police Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$267,861.00 to defray the cost of running the Police Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 8 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 9: Ambulance Service

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 for Ambulance Service contracted with the Town of Plymouth for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 9 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 10: Emergency Management

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,336.00 to defray the cost of the Safety Committee, E-911, and Emergency Management. (Majority vote required)

Safety Committee	\$2,500.00
E-911	\$200.00
Emergency Management	\$3,636.00

Article 10 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 11: Fire Dept.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$122,953.00 to defray the cost of running the Fire Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 11 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Terry French questioned the revenue amount of \$45,815.62.00, Town Administrator Joe Chivell explained it was under the general heading of "Other State Grants" and was related to "Roads and Culverts". The QuickBooks Software still had "Fire" attached to "Other State Grants" since in 2021 the Fire Department received a State Grant.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 12: Fire Department Forest Fire

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,002.00 to defray the cost of Forest Fire Protection for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 12 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 13: Fire Department Non-Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to add to the Mutual Aid Fire Fighter Fund non-capital reserve account (established in 2016) for the purpose of compensating firefighters involved in fighting forest fires. The Selectmen recommend this Special Article. (Majority vote required)

Article 13 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 14: Reorganization of Fire Department

To see if the Town will vote to modify the organizational structure of the Rumney Fire Department as follows, in accordance with RSA 154:1 and RSA 154:5, such changes to take effect one year following this vote and to completely replace and supersede all provisions of all warrant Articles approved by any prior Rumney Town Meeting regarding the organization of the Department:

1. The elected position of fire chief shall be discontinued and replaced with an appointed fire chief as provided in section 2 below.
2. The fire chief shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The fire chief's term shall be three (3) years, renewable for one or more additional terms of three (3) years at the sole discretion of the Board of Selectmen. All provisions of RSA 154:5 shall apply to the appointed fire chief, with the Board of Selectmen as the "appointing authority."
3. Firefighters shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen upon recommendation of the fire chief. All new firefighters shall initially serve a probationary period of one year upon their

appointment to the Department. However, all firefighters shall remain employees at will and are subject to removal with or without cause, either before or after the end of the probationary period. Firefighters shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Selectmen.

4. Other aspects of the organization of the Fire Department, including the maximum number of firefighters and subordinate officer structure, shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen recommend this Article. (Majority vote required)

➤ Please note that the adoption of Article 14 will not eliminate the Position of the Fire Commissioners.

➤ Paragraph 4. Will be completed with the input of the Fire Chief and Fire Commissioners.

Article 14 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Selectman Isaac DeWever explained what this is and the reason for this Article. These changes have already been made towards the coast and larger towns. Smaller towns are just now starting to make these changes. Most of our calls are for EMS, and with our aging community, this will only increase. Our Fire Chief Evan Hacker is already taking EMR Training to help in this area. Selectman Bob Berti explained the State is facing critical issues. Rumney had more deaths than births last year. The Selectmen represent the citizens of the Town. Organizational and Training issues were pointed out in the MRI inspection report done at the Fire Department last year. We want to move forward with this and be proactive with how we address this.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 15: EMS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,950.00 to defray the cost of running the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 15 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Kathy Wallace wanted to know why there was an increase. EMS Director Dan Medaglia explained there was a \$600.00 increase for a new fax line for reports that are required within 24 hours.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 16: Highway Department Sand Shed

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to build a sand shed at the Rumney Highway Garage and authorize the withdrawal of \$20,000.00 from the Highway Department Equipment Fund (established in 1961). The balance of \$10,000.00 is to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this Special Article. (Majority vote required)

Article 16 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with majority vote.

Article 17: Highway Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$287,764.00 to defray the cost of running the Rumney Highway Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 17 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with majority vote.

Article 18: Road Improvement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000.00 for road improvements for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 18 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Selectman Bob Berti thanked Road Agent Nick Coursey for the great work this Winter and keeping us out of the news, unlike other surrounding Towns. Ken Weinig asked if any dirt roads will be paved this year. Nick Coursey said that is not in the works at this time.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 19: Debt Services

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,279.00 for annual debt payments for the following bond items, backhoe purchase, rest area purchase and the town office addition; Highway Backhoe Purchase Bond (14,237.00) The Rest Area purchase (20,096.00) and Town Office Addition (53,946.00). This Article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual Articles addressed separately.

The Selectmen recommend this Article. (Majority vote required)

Article 19 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Kim Ganley asked about the Rest Area purchase status. Selectman Isaac DeWever explained the purchase and sales agreement has been signed, however an Amendment was just signed to extend the sale due to the State requesting changes to the survey that the Town provided as required by the State. We are currently waiting to hear back from the State. We are almost across the finish line. Beth Macdonald asked how long the extension is for. Isaac stated 90 days, as of last month, so 60 more. Beth asked if a committee will be formed to suggest how that area will be used. Isaac said that is a great idea and we have \$10,000.00 set aside for clean-up. Charles Buckley asked why there was a bond on the Town Office addition. Isaac explained the original loan voted in two years ago was for \$255,000.00. We received COVID related funding of \$164,048.60 to use towards the building. As of right now we are at \$226,352.59, so still under budget for the original amount, even without the extra money.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 20: Library

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$53,705.00 to defray the cost of operating the Byron G. Merrill Library for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 20 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 21: Transfer Station

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$185,834.00 to defray the cost of maintaining the Transfer Station for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 21 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Selectman Bob Berti explained that at a prior Town Meeting it was asked why we have three people working at the Transfer Station. We need two people at the Transfer Station when it is open to the public, but we also need one additional person for recycling. We benefit about \$8,800.00, from recycling, even with paying for the added worker. Bob Berti and Superintendent Sonny Ouellette went to Berlin today to inspect a new landfill option as tipping fee increases are coming from the current landfill used by the Town. The Board and Superintendent are considering moving to a different company next year.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 22: Landfill Closure

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000.00 to continue with Phase II of the Landfill Closure process as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

Article 22 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 23: Solid Waste

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,800.00 to defray the cost of the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 23 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 24: Assessing and Mapping

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,750.00 for assessing and mapping and authorize the withdrawal of \$8,750 from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (Established 1984) created for that purpose. The balance of \$35,000.00 is to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (Majority vote required)

Article 24 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Town Administrator Joe Chivell explained that we are in year 3 of a 4-year Town wide revaluation process.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 25: Health, Welfare, Animal control

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,924.00 for the purposes of Animal Control, Health, and Welfare for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 25 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Animal Control	\$1,002.00
Health Officer Stipend, etc.	\$969.00
Health Administration	\$500.00
Mount Mooselauke Health Center	\$1,250.00
Pemi-Baker Community Health	\$6,000.00
Voices Against Violence	\$550.00
Bridge House	\$2,000.00
Genesis	\$1,000.00
CASA	\$500.00
CADY	\$600.00
Transport Central	\$1,000.00
Direct Assistance	\$10,000.00
Welfare Administrator Stipend, etc.	\$4,307.00
Grafton County Seniors	\$3,250.00
Tri-County CAP	\$2,996.00

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 26: Culture, Recreation, Conservation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,335.00 for the purpose of Culture, Recreation, and Conservation for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 26 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

ARTICLE 27: Code Enforcement

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of Code Enforcement during the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 27 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 28: Re-adopt Optional Veterans' Credit

To see if the Town will vote to re-adopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit pursuant to RSA 72:28, II for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500.00 (Majority vote required)

Article 28 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Kim Ganley asked for clarification on Articles 28 and 29. Town Administrator Joe Chivell explained the State Legislative body rewrote the Veterans credit, so this has to be adopted to stay at \$500.00. Roger Scroggins pointed out the bodies of Articles 28 and 29 are flipped. Joe Chivell assured everyone we are voting on the body of the Articles. Titles don't matter and the titles are only flipped on the handout that was provided tonight with notes on it. The official document that was posted, printed in the Town Report, and submitted to NH-DRA are correct.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 29: Re-adopt All Veteran's Credit

To see if the Town will vote to re-adopt the All-Veterans' Tax Credit pursuant to RSA 72:28-b for an annual tax credit on residential property in the same amount as the Town's optional or standard Veterans' Tax Credit. (Majority vote required)

Article 29 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 30: Payment by Credit Card

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 80:52-c allowing the Treasurer and other appropriate municipal officials to accept payment of taxes, charges, and fees by use of a credit card or debit card, and to add a service charge for the acceptance of such credit or debit card, such service charge to be disclosed prior to accepting payment. (Majority vote required)

Article 30 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

Town Administrator Joe Chivell explained we'd like this on record as we are looking into allowing credit card payments in the future.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 31: Advisory Budget Committee

To choose one member for the Advisory Budget Committee:

- 1 –1 year term
- 1 - 2-year term
- 3 - 3-year term

Janice Mulherin nominated Mark Andrew for a 3-year term. Kim Ganley asked what these positions are required to do and if they are paid positions. Selectman Isaac DeWever explained this is where he got his start, and it was a great way to have input in actually forming the Town Budget. It is one of the least time-consuming committees in that they only meet during the Town Budget process in the Fall. It is an unpaid and totally voluntary position. Janice Mulherin nominated George Bonfiglio for the 1-year term and Kevin Maes for the 2-year term. Dan Medaglia nominated Beth Macdonald for the 3-year term. All nominees accepted.

Article 31 was read, the Moderator asked for a motion to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.

With no further discussion, Article passed with a majority vote.

Article 32: Reports

To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM

Lila Williams, Town Clerk

Dawn Coffey, Deputy Town Clerk