

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN OF RUMNEY  
WARRANT for 2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, welcomed the residents to the Town of Rumney 2024 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 2024 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 are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

**First Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)**

Date: March 12, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Location: 195 School Street, Russell School, Rumney NH

Details: Voting located in the gymnasium

**Second Session of Annual Meeting (Transaction of All Other Business)**

Date: March 14, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 195 School Street, Russell School, Rumney NH

Details: Voting located in the gymnasium

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

Edward L. Haskell Jr. - 176

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3-year term

Deborah B. Maes – 198

Cemetery for 3-year term

R. Bradley Eaton – 211

(2) Planning Board Members for 3-year terms

Brian Flynn – 157

Zachary Richards – 106

Fire Commissioner for 1-year term

Janice Mulherin- 187

Fire Commissioner for 2-year term  
Lila Williams- 194  
Fire Commissioner for 3-year term  
Mark Andrew- 193  
Library Trustee for 3-year term  
Robin Goldstein- 206  
Town Moderator 2-year term  
Christina Westfall – 193  
Supervisor of Checklist for 2-year term  
Cathleen A. Hacker – 201  
Supervisor of Checklist for 6-year term  
Katheryn L. Grabiek -202

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## **Article 02 Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$151,500 to be added to the following previously established Capital Reserve Funds. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Police Department Fund (1986)	\$10,000
Highway Equipment Fund (1961)	\$40,000
Town Facility Improvement (1987)	\$25,000
Fire Department Fund (1963)	\$40,000
EMS Vehicle (2005)	\$2,500
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	\$15,000
Fire Department Equipment (2009)	\$7,000
Transfer Station Equip	\$1,000
EMS Major Equipment	\$1,000
Cemetery Improvement (2014)	\$10,000
 TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	 \$151,500

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 03 Purchase Highway Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 to purchase a replacement Highway Department Truck and authorize the withdrawal of \$90,000 for this purpose from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1961). The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required.)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 04 General Government Expenses**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$611,393 to defray the following General Government Expenses for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Executive	\$105,496
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$103,245

Supervisors of Checklist	\$6,500
Financial Administration	\$65,308
Legal Expense	\$25,000
Health Insurance	\$171,400
Planning Board	\$14,361
General Government Buildings	\$66,150
Street Lights	\$12,000
Property/Liability/WC	\$39,683
Regional Dues	\$2,250

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 05 Old Home Day**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,594 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, 2028, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 06 Cemetery**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,760 for the operation of the Cemeteries for the ensuing year; \$5,000 to come from the Cemetery Trust Fund and \$28,760 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 07 Code Enforcement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of Code Enforcement during the ensuing year. (Majority Vote Required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 08 Police Dept.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$286,600 to defray the cost of running the Police Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 09 Ambulance Service**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$83,651 for Ambulance Service contracted with the Town of Plymouth for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 10 Emergency Management**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,335 to defray the cost of the Safety Committee, E-911, and Emergency Management. (Majority vote required)

Safety Committee	\$2,500
E-911	\$200
Emergency Management	\$5,635

Total Safety, E-911 & Emg Mgt \$8,335

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 11 Fire Dept.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$134,112 to defray the cost of running the Fire Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 12 Fire Dept. - Forest Fire**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,002 to defray the cost of Forest Fire Protection for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 13 Fire Dept. Non-Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to add to the Mutual Aid Fire Fighter Fund non-capital reserve account (established in 2016) for the purpose of compensating fire fighters involved in fighting forest fires. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 14 Fire Dept. Hose Testing**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,500 for testing and Cataloging Fire Department Fire hose and ladders and authorize the withdrawal of \$4,500 from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve (Established in 2009) created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 15 Petition Warrant Article**

To see if the Town would vote to rescind Article #18. "To choose (3) three Fire Commissioners." This was approved during the Annual Town Meeting - Business Session on March 9, 1937. This will discontinue the Rumney Fire Commissioners. The change to take effect one year following this vote at the Annual Town Meeting - Business session on March 14, 2024. (Petition Warrant Article.)

It was asked why this was proposed. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, explained it was voted last year for the Selectmen to be over the Fire Department. Most surrounding Towns have already made this switch. It was asked why we voted during the Town Election for Fire Commissioners. DeWever explained it would not take effect until next year at this time, and the voted-on Commissioners will be placeholders until that time. Fire Chief, Evan Hacker, explained they have already been reporting to the Selectmen, and it has been working out. Selectman, Bob Berti, explained the needs of the Town are changing and the EMS/Fire issues are a monumental task, but really need to be looked at.

With no further discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 16 EMS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,950 to defray the cost of running the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 17 Highway Dept.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$308,616 to defray the cost of running the Rumney Highway Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 18 Road Improvement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 for road improvements for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

The question: what roads are to be improved, the Road Agent stated Stone Hill Rd. and East Rumney Rd. There will be repairs of asphalt and dirt to other roads.

Article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 19 Debt Services**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$82,566 for annual debt payments for the following bond items, backhoe purchase, rest area purchase and the town office addition; Highway Backhoe Purchase Bond (8,523) The Rest Area purchase (20,097) and Town Office Addition (53,946). This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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#### **Article 20 Library**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$57,880 to defray the cost of operating the Byron G. Merrill Library for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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**Article 21 Transfer Station**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$198,302 to defray the cost of maintaining the Transfer Station for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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**Article 22 Landfill Closure**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to continue with Phase II of the Landfill Closure process as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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**Article 23 Solid Waste**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,800 to defray the cost of the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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**Article 24 Assessing and Mapping**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$48,000 for assessing and mapping and authorize the withdrawal of \$10,000 from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (Established 1984) created for that purpose. The balance of \$38,000 is to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this Special Article. (Majority vote required)

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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**Article 25 Health, Welfare, Animal control**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,324 for the purposes of Animal Control, Health and Welfare for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Animal Control	\$1,002
Health Officer Stipend, etc.	\$969
Health Administration	\$500
Mount Mooselaukee Health Center	\$1,500
Pemi-Baker Community Health	\$6,500
Voices Against Violence	\$1,000
Bridge House	\$2,000
Genesis	\$1,250
CASA	\$500
CADY	\$800
Transport Central	\$1,250
Direct Assistance	\$10,000
Welfare Administrator Stipend, etc	\$4,307

Grafton County Seniors	\$3,250
Tri-County CAP	\$2,996
NCH	\$500
Total Animal Control, Health & Welfare	\$38,324

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 26 Culture, Recreation, Conservation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,425 for the purposes of Culture, Recreation and Conservation for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Common-Mowing, Maintenance & Port-a-toilet	\$2,000
Baker Athletic Field	\$1,100
Jim Darling Natural Area	\$800
Patriotic Purposes	\$400
Conservation Commission	\$9,000
Baker River Watershed Dues	\$375
Conservation Trust	\$5,000
Stinson Lake Port-a-toilet	<u>\$750</u>
Total Culture, Recreation & Conservation	\$19,425

A question was raised about the Conservation Commission being \$9,000. Conservation Chair, Janice Mulherin, explained there is another Clean Up Rumney Day planned for this year and Rumney needs an updated Natural Resource Inventory.

With no further discussion, article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 27 Choose Members for Advisory**

To choose one member for the Advisory Budget Committee:

- 1 - 1-year term
- 1 - 3-year term

George Bonfiglio was nominated for the 3-year term.

Article passed by majority vote.

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## **Article 28 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.

No discussion, article passed by majority vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM by a majority vote.

Submitted by: Lila Williams and Dawn Coffey