

# Town of Hopkinton New Hampshire Warrant 2024

The inhabitants of the TOWN OF HOPKINTON in the county of Merrimack in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTING DAY:** You are hereby notified to meet at the Hopkinton Middle/High School Gymnasium, 297 Park Avenue, Contoocook, on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, beginning at 7:00 a.m. to act on Articles 1 and 2, the election of officers and zoning amendments. **The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**BUSINESS SESSION:** You are hereby notified to meet at the Hopkinton Middle/High School Gymnasium, 297 Park Avenue, Contoocook, on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to act upon Articles 3 through 15.

## **Article 1: Election of Officers**

To choose all necessary town officers by ballot and majority vote for the ensuing year as enumerated:

1 Select Board Member	3 Year Term
1 Moderator	2 Year Term
1 Town Clerk/Tax Collector	1 Year Term
1 Supervisor of the Checklist	6 Year Term
2 Budget Committee Members	3 Year Term
1 Library Trustee	1 Year Term
2 Library Trustees	3 Year Term
1 Cemetery Trustee	3 Year Term
1 Trustee of Trust Funds	3 Year Term

## **Article 2: Zoning Amendments**

To see what action the town will take with respect to the following proposed amendments to the Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance by ballot vote upon the following questions:

1. *Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 1** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:*

Amend Zoning Ordinance Section II, Definitions, by omitting the last sentence in the definition of "Lot Line, Front." This change ensures that corner lots facing multiple streets will have those lot lines designated as front lot lines, requiring compliance with the front yard setback. Simultaneously, within Section II, substitute the current Setback Graphic with a new illustration that provides clarity on front, side, and rear yard setbacks. This amendment addresses a conflict between the definition and the Setback Graphic within the Zoning Ordinance.

**Yes**       **No**

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 2** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Zoning Ordinance Section V, specifically 5.2.1, Use of a Nonconforming Lot. Add the original month and year (March 1964) of the enactment of zoning in this section. Remove the inquiry about whether the owner(s) of a nonconforming lot own additional contiguous land, as well as the requirement for owners with contiguous land to merge the lots in order for a nonconforming lot to be built upon. This amendment is intended to further align with NH RSA 674:39-a, Restoration of Involuntarily Merged Lots.

Yes  No

3. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 3** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Zoning Ordinance Section XV, Zoning Board of Adjustment, so that it aligns with the powers and duties specifically granted under NH RSA 674:33. The purpose of the amendments is to provide clarity in understanding the Board's powers, membership, rules, application criteria and filing period. Also addressed is the timing for hearing notices, meeting minutes, action on applications, requests for rehearings, and reapplications. The amendments also introduce provisions for conditions of approval, incorporate requirements for additional findings in alignment with the Floodplain Development Ordinance, include stipulations related to authorization, and recognize appeals of decisions made by the Planning Board.

Yes  No

4. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 4** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Zoning Ordinance Section XVII, Floodplain Development Ordinance, as necessary to align with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. The identified amendments were a result of a review conducted by the NH Office of Planning and Development. The amendments include where reference is made to specific dates, the North American Vertical Datum, the special flood hazard areas, base flood elevation, NH RSA 482-A:3, Wetlands Bureau, requirements for hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, the building inspector's utilization of floodway data, regulations concerning recreation vehicles, and guidelines for maintaining and reporting variances. As a result, language within Section XVII will be rephrased, added, or omitted as necessary.

Yes  No

**Article 3: Adoption of Official Ballot Referendum Form of Meeting**

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Hopkinton on the second Tuesday of March? *(By Petition).*

*(3/5 Ballot vote required).*

*(The Select Board does not recommend this article (4-0)).*

**Article 4: Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$9,746,744 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (9-0)).*

*Estimated Tax Impact per \$1,000 of assessed valuation: \$7.144.*

**Article 5: Appropriation to Capital Reserve Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,031,000 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

Police/Fire Radio Replacement	\$ 3,000
Road/Bridge Rehabilitation	100,000
New & Replacement Equip. & Vehicles for Public Works & Highway Dept.	260,000
Police Vehicle Replacement	15,000
Replacement & Equipping of Ambulance	50,000
Fire Department Vehicle and Equipment Acquisitions	325,000
Transfer Station Equipment & Facilities	95,000
Revaluation	43,000
Library Building Systems	35,000
Recreation Facilities	50,000
Sewer Equipment/Sludge Removal	<u>55,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,031,000</b>

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (9-0)).*

*Estimated Tax Impact per \$1,000 of assessed valuation: \$1.292.*

**Article 6: Appropriation to Expendable Trust Funds**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$102,000 to be added to previously established Expendable Trust Funds as follows:

Library Buildings & Grounds	\$ 6,500
Town Facilities	90,000
Recreation Facilities	<u>5,500</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 102,000</b>

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article 9-0)).*

*Estimated Tax Impact per \$1,000 of assessed valuation: \$0.128.*

**Article 7: Authorization to Expend from Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for the purpose of offsetting the cost of collection and disposal of residential solid waste and such other direct costs as budgeted annually, with said funds to come from the Pay-by-Bag Special Revenue Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation.

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article 9-0)).*

*No Tax Impact.*

**Article 8: Authorization to Expend from Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,200 for the purpose of offsetting operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser Center with said funds to come from the Slusser Senior Center Rental Special Revenue Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation.

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

*(The Budget Committee recommends this article (9-0)).*

*No Tax Impact.*

**Article 9: Adoption of Hopkinton Community Power Plan**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Hopkinton Community Power plan as developed by the Hopkinton Community Power Committee pursuant to RSA 53-E. Adoption of the plan authorizes the Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The plan will be self-funding, with no amount to be raised from taxation. Each ratepayer will be able to choose from rate tiers with varying percentages of renewable energy and rates, or they may opt-out of the plan at any time, if desired.

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

**Article 10: Amendment to the Hopkinton-Webster Refuse Disposal Agreement**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize amendments to the Hopkinton Webster Refuse Disposal Agreement and which if authorized by both towns will supersede all previous agreements. The full text of the proposed amendments is available for review on the town website, at the Town Hall, and in the Annual Town Report. The amended agreement will take effect after authorization by both towns.

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

*Requires both Hopkinton and Webster to adopt to become effective.*

**Article 11: Modification of Elderly Exemption**

Shall the Town modify the previously adopted provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Hopkinton, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65-74 years of age, \$240,000; for a person 75-79 years of age, \$295,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$340,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

*(Majority Vote Required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

**Article 12: Modification of Disabled Exemption**

Shall the Town modify the previously adopted provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be \$200,000. To qualify the person must be eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act for benefits to the disabled, have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, and 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 5 consecutive years. The exemption may apply only to property that is occupied as the principal place of abode of the disabled person. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 or if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000, and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

*(Majority Vote Required).*

*(The Select Board recommends this article (4-0)).*

**Article 13: Transfer Station Fees**

To see if the Town will set Transfer Station fees to a rate not to exceed cost plus 10% where cost is defined as disposal plus transportation.

*(By Petition).*

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board does not recommend this article (4-0)).*

**Article 14: Hand Count Ballots**

“Shall the following provision 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 Hopkinton immediately.

*(By Petition).*

*(Majority vote required).*

*(The Select Board does not recommend this article (4-0)).*

**Article 15: Other Legal Business**

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands and seal this 12th day of February 2024,


We certify and attest that on or before February 26, 2024, a true and attested copy of this Warrant was posted at the place of meeting and at the Town Hall, made available on the town website, and the original was delivered to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector.



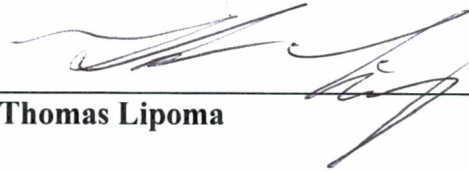
Sabrina Dunlap, Chair



Ken Traum, Vice Chair



Steven Whitley



Thomas Lipoma

Jeffrey S. Donohoe

*Select Board, Hopkinton, New Hampshire*

Attest:



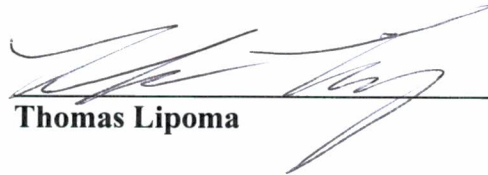
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