

2024 Town Warrant

Town of Webster, New Hampshire

THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 10:00 AM TO 7:00 PM TO ACT ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES

To the inhabitants of the Town of Webster in the County of Merrimack in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Webster on Tuesday, the 12th day of March, next at ten of the clock in the forenoon, to act upon the following subjects:

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. **(BY BALLOT)**
2. Are you in favor of allowing the Planning Board to have the authority to assign such section numbers to the Zoning Ordinance as it may deem appropriate provided that no substantive change to the ordinance shall occur because of this renumbering. The planning Board recommends (5 to 0) **(BY BALLOT)**
3. **Amendment to the Hopkinton-Webster Refuse Disposal Agreement**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the adoption of proposed amendments to the Hopkinton-Webster Refuse Disposal Agreement, which if authorized by both towns, the amended agreement will supersede all previous agreements. The full text of the proposed amendments is available on the Town's website. The amended agreement will take effect after authorization by both towns.

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

You are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Business Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: March 16, 2024

Time: 10:00 A.M.

**Location: Grange Hall
945 Battle Street
Webster, New Hampshire 03303**

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,827,866 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0.**

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$534,100** to be added to the following established Capital Reserve Funds under RSA 35:1. (Majority vote required)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Town Office Equipment | 2,500 |
| Fire Department Air Parks | 20,000 |
| Bridge/Culvert Improvements | 25,000 |
| Fire Department -Dry Hydrants | 500 |
| Town Hall Improvements | 5,000 |
| Police Cruiser | 22,000 |
| Emergency Apparatus | 112,000 |
| Highway Land/Building Fund | 7,500 |
| Fire Department-Bunker Gear | 1,000 |
| Public Safety Building | 1,000 |
| Webster/Hopkinton Transfer Station | 117,000 |
| Police Equipment | 1,000 |
| Highway Equipment | 1,000 |
| Medical Equipment | 6,000 |
| Highway and Roads | 200,000 |
| Mobil Communication Fund for FD | 10,000 |
| Reappraisal | 2,500 |
| Bicentennial Fund | 100 |

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0.**

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$132,600** to be added to the following established Expendable Trust Funds per RSA 31:10-a. (Majority Vote Required)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Forest Fire | 2,000 |
| Legal (Webster) | 1,000 |
| Welfare | 1,000 |
| Police Vehicle Maintenance | 1,000 |
| Highway | 5,000 |
| Fire Department Equipment | 5,000 |
| Compensated Absences | 100 |
| Road Preservation | 100,000 |
| Municipal Property Maintenance | 7,500 |
| Technology Fund | 10,000 |

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

7. To see if the Town will vote to expend the sum of \$46,968.40 for the purchase of a new police cruiser and related equipment to come from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The 2016 Police Cruiser will be traded or sold with the proceeds being returned to the General Fund. No additional funds will be raised through taxation. This is a Special Warrant Article (Majority Vote Required)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

8. To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year under the provisions of RSA 31:98-a for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$16,446** to put into the fund. This sum is to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. This is an Individual Warrant Article (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** to help offset the cost of the bond for "Funds to Repair Dam" passed at the Pillsbury Lake Water District Meeting held August 5, 2006. (Majority vote required)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

10. To see if the Town will vote to raise the tax credit for the Optional Veteran's Credit and the All-Veteran's Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28 II, and RSA 72:28-b II, to increase the credit from \$500 to \$750. (Majority Vote Required)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

11. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Capital Reserve Fund that was established by the Town Meeting on March 14, 1998, for the purpose of updating Tax Maps. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. The expense for updating Tax Maps is budgeted in the line-item budget and this Capital Reserve Fund is no longer necessary. This fund as of January 31, 2024, has a balance of \$2,308.16. Any accrued interest will be included. (Majority Vote Required)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

12. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Capital Reserve Fund that was established by the Town Meeting on March 17, 2001, and amended on March 15, 2015, for the purpose of maintenance of the Softball and Soccer Field. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. There are no improvements planned for the Field. This fund as of January 31, 2024, has a balance of \$2,556.61. Any accrued interest will be included. (Majority Vote Required)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

13. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Expendable Trust Fund that was established by the Town Meeting on March 12, 2011, for the purpose of covering unexpected highway building maintenance expenses that may come before the Town. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. The Town also has a Capital Reserve Fund established for the purchase of land and construction of a new highway building. This Expendable Trust Fund is no longer necessary. This fund has a balance of \$3,074.26. Any accrued interest will be included. (Majority Vote Required)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

14. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for operational costs of the Webster Historical Society and repairs to Hy-Mar Museum. (Majority Vote Required)

(Received by Petition)

The Selectboard recommends this article **3 to 0**.

15. 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. (Majority Vote Required)


(Received by Petition)

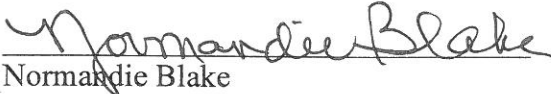
16. To request the Town of Webster to seek the return of two Town Owned Lot, (Map 6, Lots 113 and 114), one and a half acres each, on Walker Pond Rd. They were deemed not for sale by the Select Board, and the Conservation Committee in 2017. These lots were sold, by the Select Board, to a town official on October 9, 2019, in non-public session (sealed minutes too) who made an offer on the "not for sale property" which was valued on Webster Tax Map, at \$22,400 each lot, for a total of \$44,800 for 3 acres. The secret offer was for \$7,000 which is one sixth of the value. This sale broke Websters July 3, 2017 "Selling of Properties Policy, " (which was signed by the purchaser), and NH State RSA chapter 95:1 and 95:2 "Barring Public Officials from certain Private Dealings, valued in excess of \$200., a misdemeanor. An in-depth investigation followed, for which the buyer was prosecuted and found guilty and by NH law, was removed from the town position.(Majority Vote Required)


(Received by Petition)

17. To Transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

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


David Hemenway

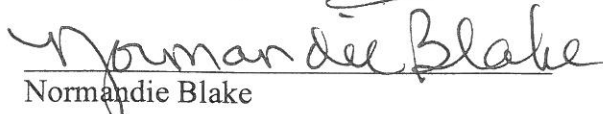

Normandie Blake


Marlo Herrick

Webster Selectboard

A True Copy of this Warrant Attest


David Hemenway


Normandie Blake


Marlo Herrick