

Town of Newington, NH  
Budget Committee Public Hearing Minutes  
Friday, February 12, 2021 via Zoom

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

**Present via Zoom:** John Lamson, Chair, Brandon Arsenault, Vice-Chair, Bill Wright, Alan Wilson, Jamie Belanger, Emily Savinelli, Jennifer Kent Weiner, School Board Rep, Samara Robertson, Selectmen's Rep, Ted Connors, Derick Willson, Martha Roy-Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder. Other residents and employees were present via Zoom.

John Lamson explained that this was the second public hearing on the budget. It was the official budget hearing because the date was incorrect on the first public hearing notice (February 3, 2020 instead of February 3, 2021).

**Minutes Approval February 3, 2021:**

J. Kent Weiner moved to approve the February 3, 2021 minutes. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.

**School Budget Review:**

J. Lamson explained that the Budget Committee would be voting on the school articles #1 and #2 at the same time.

**Article 1: Proposed Operating Budget of \$2,412,439.**

**Article 2: Retainage:** J. Lamson explained that state law permits schools to put away 5% of surplus money. The previous percentage was 2.5%.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on School Articles 1 and 2. There were none.

E. Savinelli moved to recommend Articles 1 and 2. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor.

**Town Warrant Articles:**

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Seven Million, Nine Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand, Eight

Hundred and Thirty-Eight Dollars (\$7,988,838) for the operating budget. This article does not include appropriations voted in special or individual warrant articles addressed separately. Note: This includes the Selectmen's recommendation that the Fire Dept Budget "F/D-EQUIPMENT PURCHASES" BE CHANGED TO STATE: "F/D-EQUIPMENT & VEHICLE PURCHASES"

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 1. There were none.

**J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend Article 1 in the amount of \$7,988,838. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor 9-0.**

**Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$620,208 for the purpose of designing and constructing a safety lane along Nimble Hill Road from Shattuck Way to Arboretum Drive and to authorize the Selectmen to accept \$496,166 to be reimbursed to the Town from Federal funds administered through the NH DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); and to further raise \$124,042. (20% match). This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised by taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner.**

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 2. There were none.

B. Arsenault asked if there were any new developments since the last budget committee meeting. T. Connors said no. J. Belanger said that there has been a lot more information on the town website about the safety/bike lane. J. Belanger would like the town to have a design review meeting before the town meeting so we can save time at the town meeting. T. Connors said that something will be put together for a design review meeting with the town engineer. J. Kent Weiner asked that the meeting be in the evening. T. Connors said it would be at night. J. O'Reilly gave an update on plans for the Town meeting. There will be two locations, the Town Hall and the Fire Station. Residents will be able to ask questions via a Zoom chat room.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 2. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-no, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. Eight were in favor and one opposed 8-1.**

J. Lamson explained that the committee would be voting on Articles 3 & 4 together, to recommend Article 3 and to not recommend Article 4.

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be placed in the Replacement of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a ten-year lease/purchase agreement of a new Fire Engine to replace Engine 5 in the amount of \$670,000, with \$150,000 as the initial down payment coming from Capital Reserve in 2021. The remaining \$520,000 will be financed over ten years in estimated equal payments of \$60,597.57 starting in 2022, but are subject to change depending on current interest rate at the time of lease/purchase signing. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required). If Article 3 passes, Article 4 will be withdrawn.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 3 & 4. There were none.

B. Arsenault explained that he would be changing his vote on these articles because of J. Lamson's explanation at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 3 and to not recommend Article 4. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor 9-0.**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$132,000) to be added to the Major Road Work Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required). 2021 Eversource Laydown Area rental income.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 5. There were none.

J. Kent Weiner asked M. Roy to explain the wording change on this article. M. Roy said that the town auditor explained that the words, "This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation" had to be removed because the town won't have the funds until the end of 2021. B. Arsenault asked if this money would be going toward road repair. M. Roy said yes.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Article 5. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor 9-0.**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) to be added to the Major Road Work Capital Reserve Fund

previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required). 2020 Eversource Laydown Area rental income.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 6. There were none.

**A. Wilson moved to recommend Article 6. B. Wright seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-no, E. Savinelli-no, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-no, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-no, S. Robertson-no, J. Lamson-no. Three were in favor and six opposed 3-6.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to purchase and outfit a new ½ ton pickup truck style vehicle to replace Car 2 for the Fire Department.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 7. There were none.

B. Arsenault asked what the plans were for the car the Fire Department is replacing. E. Hoyt said that it would be stripped of the equipment and then turned back to the Selectmen. T. Connors said it would be sold. B. Arsenault asked if the sale proceeds would go back into the general fund. T. Connors said yes.

**B. Arsenault moved to recommend Article 7. B. Wright seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor 9-0.**

J. Lamson explained that the committee would be voting on Articles 8, 9 and 10 together.

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Major Repairs of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Town Wide Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Articles 8, 9 & 10. There were none.

**J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend Article 8, 9 & 10. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor 9-0.**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Replacement of Vehicles Operated by the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund and further to purchase a backhoe from these funds.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 11.

**B. Wright moved to recommend Article 11. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-no, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-no, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. Seven were in favor and two opposed.**

J. Lamson explained that the committee would be voting on Articles 12, 13 and 14 together.

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for the Board of Fire Engineer's to purchase appropriate gym equipment to replace and expand existing used equipment.

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Fire Department Communications Capital Reserve Fund.

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Computer Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing in house servers, computers, laptops, communications and monitors and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in this fund. Further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote Required).

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Articles 12, 13 & 14. There were none.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Articles 12, 13 & 14. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E.**

**Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor 9-0.**

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Town Generators Capital Reserve Fund.

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Article 15. There were none.

**E. Savinelli moved to recommend Articles 15. B. Wright seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor 9-0.**

J. Lamson explained that the committee would be voting on Articles 16 and 17 together.

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the Police Department Radio/Electronics Capital Reserve Fund.

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Replacement of Major Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing broken and/or outdated equipment with the replacement cost that exceeds \$2,500 and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be placed into this fund. Further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required).

J. Lamson asked for public questions or comments on Articles 16 & 17. There were none.

**J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend Articles 16 & 17. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All were in favor 9-0.**

**B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:03pm. E. Savinelli seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, S. Robertson-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor 9-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder**