

# Annual Town Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2021

The following are the results from the Town Election, which was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The checklist reads 1196 voters. 344 ballots were cast, including 25 absentee ballots.

## Article 01

Selectman 3 yr term	<b>Leonard Espie</b>	<b>184</b>
Town Clerk/Tax Collector 3 yr term	<b>Deanna Amaral</b>	<b>309</b>
Treasurer 3 yr term	<b>Elaine Chick</b>	<b>202</b>
Trustee of Trust Funds 3 yr term	<b>Theresa Swanick</b>	<b>277</b>
Library Trustee 1 yr term	<b>Anne Foley</b>	<b>156</b>
Library Trustee 3 yr term	<b>Erik Jones</b>	<b>255</b>
Budget Committee 1 yr term	<b>John Krysa</b>	<b>243</b>
Budget Committee (2)3 yr terms	<b>David Strauss</b>	<b>249</b>
	<b>James Giguere</b>	<b>*50</b>
Planning Board 2(3) yr terms	<b>Paul Potter</b>	<b>207</b>
	<b>George Bull</b>	<b>174</b>
Zoning Board of Adjustment 3 yr term	<b>Theresa Swanick</b>	<b>241</b>
Zoning Board of Adjustment 3 yr term	<b>Nathaniel Williams</b>	<b>*32</b>

**\*Write in**

## **Article 02 Broadband Service Committee**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint two (2) volunteer representatives from the Town to serve on the Carroll County Broadband "Communications District Planning Committee" for the purpose of drafting a "Communications District Agreement" under NH RSA Chapter 53-G, Communications Districts Planning Committee; Formation and Responsibilities. The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

## **Article 03 Procurement Ordinance**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Section II Competitive Bidding, part 2) Bid Specifications, item f), and to remove the language "with a value greater than \$25,000." This is a housekeeping item to correct an error in the specified amount of \$125,000 in accordance with the RSA 447:16 and any future changes to the stated amount. The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

## **Article 04 Planning and Land Use ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Planning and Land Use Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

## **Article 05 Library Equipment Purchase and Maintenance ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 to be added to the Library Equipment Purchase and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Articles**

**2-5. Motion passed.**

**Article 06 Computer Network ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Computer Network Equipment Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**Article 07 Invasive Aquatic Plant ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be added to the Invasive Aquatic Plant Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**Article 08 Voting Machine ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be added to the Voting Machine Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

### **Article 09 Bridge Maintenance ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Bridge Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Articles**

**6-9. Motion passed.**

### **Article 10 Police Safety Gear ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Police Safety/Protective Gear Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

### **Article 11 Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$1,821,363 for general Municipal Operations, with \$13,000 coming from the unassigned fund balance. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

**The Article was moved and seconded.**

**A motion was made by the Chair of the Budget Committee to amend the line of the operating budget to \$1,806,364. The motion was seconded and passed as amended.**

**A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Articles**

**10-11. Motion passed**

## **Article 12 Emergency Management Generator Replacement ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Emergency Management Generator Replacement Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of purchasing or replacing the Emergency Generators at the Effingham Elementary School, Fire Station, Town Office or any other Town owned facility and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be put into this fund. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend said fund. No amount is to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

## **Article 13 Municipal Buildings ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Municipal Buildings Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

## **Article 14 Transfer Station/Recycling Center CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Transfer Station/Recycling Center Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

## **Article 15 Police Cruiser and Equipment CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Police Cruiser and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount is to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

### **Article 16 Fire Truck and Fire Truck Equipment CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Fire Truck and Fire Truck Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance (which represents money received from Parsonsfield for Fire Department Mutual aid). No amount to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Articles**

**12-16. Motion passed.**

### **Article 17 Avitar Associates of New England**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to contract services of Avitar Associates of New England, Inc. for the year 2021. This sum represents payment for the first year of a five-year level funded contract that provides for a full update of property values to market rate in 2025 as required by RSA 75:8-a, as well as general assessing services throughout each of the 5 years and field data verification of information appearing on property tax cards. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**A motion was made and seconded to write a Resolution:**

**The sense of the Town Meeting was that the Board of Selectmen, at the renewal time of this contract, to have an open line of communication with the voters and to share the available options with the public.**

**Motion passed.**

**A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Article**

**17. Motion passed.**

### **Article 18 Province Lake Drainage / Bailey Road Culverts**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the Province Lake Drainage Improvements Project inclusive of the removal and replacement of the Bailey Road Culverts. \$15,000 to come from taxation and \$35,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

### **Article 19 Road Reconstruction and Paving Projects**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the purpose of road reconstruction and paving projects. \$210,000 to be raised from taxation and \$40,000 to come from the unassigned fund balance. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

### **Article 20 Town Hall Repair and Rehabilitation ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,802 to be added to the Town Hall Repair and Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance (which represents money previously held in the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool). No amount to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

### **Article 21 Town Hall Repair and Rehabilitation ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Town Hall Repair and Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Articles**

**18-21. Motion passed.**

## **Article 22 Fire Truck and Equipment CRF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

## **Article 23 Fire Department Equipment ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Articles**

**22-23. Motion passed.**

## **Article 24 Daytime Fire and EMS Coverage**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,500 for the purpose of providing daytime Fire and EMS coverage for Effingham, New Hampshire. The proposed funds will provide for two positions Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM for the months of April - December 2021. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen Do Not Recommend this article.

**A motion was made and seconded to amend Article 24 to read as follows:**

**To see if the Town will vote to establish daytime Fire and EMS coverage for the Town of Effingham New Hampshire. This will consist of two positions, Monday through Friday 8 am until 6 pm.**

**And to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$48,600 for the purpose of this coverage for the year 2021 beginning June 1, 2021.**

**If approved these funds will be added to the Fire Department's operating budget and will appear there from here on out.**



**Article passed as amended.**

**Article 25 Defibrillator**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,000 for the purchase of new Defibrillators to replace the aged and/or obsolete units currently owned. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen Do Not Recommend this article

**A motion was made and seconded to amend Article 25 to read as follows:**

**To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$38,000 for the purchase of a new Cardiac Monitor Defibrillator to replace the aged and obsolete unit currently owned. This is a special warrant article.**

**Article passed as amended.**

**A motion was made and seconded to restrict reconsideration of Articles**

**24-25. Motion passed.**

**Article 26 Petition Elderly Exemption from Property Tax**

Shall we modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Effingham, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75, \$25,000.00, for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$30,000.00: for a person 80 years of age or older \$35,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for least 5 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 \$22,000.00, or if married a combined net income of less than \$30,000.00, and own net assets not in excess of \$54,000.00, excluding the value of the person's property. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen Do Not Recommend this article.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read. Hand count:**

**YES 25 and NO 23**

### **Article 27 Petition Warrant Article**

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Effingham to see if the Town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering. Additionally, these voters ask the town of Effingham to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Effingham selectmen to our state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

### **Article 28 Petition Warrant Article**

Petition to: Amend the Town of Effingham Procurement Ordinance To see if the Town will vote to amend Section III: Miscellaneous Provisions, part 4(c) to read as follows: "c) There is an acceptable vendor on file with a proven history who has provided the lowest price quoted or bid through a posted and/or advertised bid process within the previous four years, for a similar product or service,"

**A motion was made and seconded to Postpone Article 28 indefinitely.**

**The Article passed as amended. Hand count: YES 27 and NO 26.**

### **Article 29 To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports**

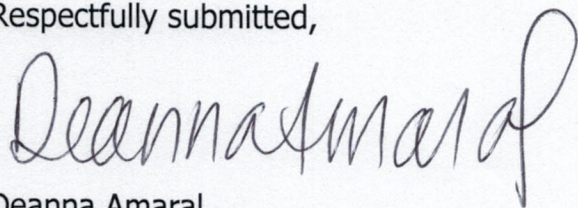
To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of its agents and auditors.

**The Article was moved, seconded and passed as read.**

**Article 30.** To transact any business that may legally come before said meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deanna Amaral". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Deanna Amaral

Town of Effingham

Town Clerk