

## Annual Town Meeting March 16, 2024

The Following are the results from the Town Election, which was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The checklist reads 1095 voters. 294 ballots were cast, including 4 absentee ballots.

The Town Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 16, 2024. The Town Meeting had 80 registered voters in attendance. Moderator Pittman started with The Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Pittman thanked and acknowledged our Veterans and present military, and Ems, and our Police Officers. Moderator Pittman mentioned housekeeping tips for The Town Meeting.

Moderator Pittman thanked Principal Morrissey, Pam Buswell, and Mark McKinley, of Effingham Elementary School, for all their help and cooperation in using the school for our Elections and The Town Meeting, and for all they do with setting up. Moderator Pittman thanked our Supervisors of the Checklist, and especially acknowledged Cheryle Feirick, who is stepping down as Supervisor of the Checklist after many years of service.

Moderator Pittman invited Chris Seamans to introduce and recognize Chief Tyler Eldridge's promotion to Chief, and Sergeant Brian Baker to Sergeant. Newest Patrol Officer Brandon Jendrock, and K-9 Jesse was also mentioned.

Moderator Pittman recognized Irene Riordan. Irene passed away at 88 on December 23, 2023. Irene was passionate about our Library and The South Effingham Church, but she was most remembered for her love of horse racing, especially the Kentucky Derby, which she would be sure to be watching on TV. Moderator Pittman mentioned a memorial service for Irene on April 20, 2024 at 10:00 am, at The South Effingham Church, with a reception following at The Parsonsfield Seminary.

Also Mentioned was, Dutton Scott Eldridge, born June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to Benjamin and Danielle Eldridge. The Grandparent's are Tim and Jessica Eldridge. The Town Report didn't include this birth record due to not receiving the birth record from Vital Records.

**Point of order by Susan Slack- switching Articles 19 and 24**

**Susan Slack moved to move Article 24 ahead of Article 19 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans  
0 Opposed**

**Article 01**

|  |                                |            |
|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| Selectman 3 yr term                    | Leo Racine                     | 226        |
| Selectman 1 yr term                    | Chuck Fuller                   | 122        |
| Town Clerk/ Tax Collector 3 yr term    | Allen Curis, Sr.               | 208        |
| Treasurer                              | William Piekut                 | 17         |
| Moderator 2 yr term                    | Jim Pittman                    | 245        |
| Trustee of Trust Funds 3 yr term       | Janet Bartoswicz               | 248        |
| Library Trustees 3 yr term             | Erik Jones                     | 241        |
| Library Trustee 2 yr term              | Nicole Perreault               | 247        |
| Supervisor of the Checklist 6 yr term  | Steve Regal                    | 149        |
| Supervisor of the Checklist 2 yr term  | Leo Quirk                      | 229        |
| Budget Committee Members (2) 3 yr term | David Strauss<br>Scott Hilsman | 211<br>170 |
| Budget Committee Member 2 yr term      | Cody Wells                     | 226        |
| Planning Board Members 3 yr term       | Paul Potter<br>George Bull     | 197<br>191 |
| Planning Board Member 2 yr term        | Virginia Wrabel                | 227        |
| Planning Board Member 1 yr term        | Gary Jewell                    | 239        |
| Zoning Board of Adjustment 3 yr term   | Victoria Kirkwood              | 219        |
| Zoning Board of Adjustment 2 yr term   | Goran Romanovic                | 221        |

## **Article 2. Planning Board Vote Result**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2023-1 as recommended by the Planning Board for the Town Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 22 section 2208, 2211, and 2212 to clarify the role of the Fire Chief in Spill Prevention Control and Counter Measures Plans. Notification requirements to the Fire Chief and Conservation Commission remains unchanged.

**Passed by vote 224 to 63**

## **Article 3. Fire Truck and Equipment CRF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Fire Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance (which represents money received from the Town of 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.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie                    2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**

**Article passed by unanimous consent.**

## **Article 04. Fire Department Equipment ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. 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 Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie                    2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

## **Article 05. Fire Truck and Fire Truck Equipment CRF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000 to be added to the Fire Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The sum of \$20,000 is to be raised from taxation and \$50,000 is 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.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie                    2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

## **Article 06. Police Cruiser and Equipment CRF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Police Cruiser and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This sum 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.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie                    2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

## **Article 07. Police Safety Gear ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 to be added to the Police Safety/Protective Gear Expendable Trust Fund. 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.

**Article moved by Leo Racine                    2<sup>nd</sup> by Lenny Espie**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 08. Municipal Buildings ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Municipal Building Expendable Trust Fund. This sum 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.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**  
**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 09. Operating Budget**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$2,222,093 for general Municipal Operations. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

**Article moved by Dave Strauss**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**  
**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Erik Jones motion to restrict Articles 3-9**      **2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**  
**Motion passed by unanimous consent.**

**Article 10. Transfer Station/Recycling Center CRF**

Shall the Town 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.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**  
**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 11. Bridge Maintenance ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Bridge Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. 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.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**  
**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 12. Ryefield Road Paving**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to pave 0.77 miles of Ryefield road? The sum of \$250,000 is to come from taxation. This is a special warrant article. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**  
**Article passed by Majority consent, 1 NO**

**Article 13. End 68 Hours of Hunger**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the End 68 Hours of Hunger Wolfeboro Area Chapter for the purpose of supporting them in providing food bags to qualifying children from Effingham. This is a petitioned warrant article. This sum is to come from taxation. The Board of Selectman and Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority Vote Required)

**Article moved by Kathleen McCarthy**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**  
**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 14. Computer Network ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to be added to the Computer Network Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. 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.

**Article moved by Leo Racine                      2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 15. Invasive Aquatic Plant ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Invasive Aquatic Plant Non-Capital Reserve Fund. 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.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans                      2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 16. Voting Machine ETF**

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

**Article moved by Chris Seamans                      2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 17. Town Hall Repair and Rehabilitation ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Town Hall Repair and Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund. The sum of \$10,000 is to be raised from taxation and \$5,000 is to come from the unassigned fund balance. This is a special warrant article. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

**Article moved by Chuck Fuller                      2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Erik Jones motion to restrict Articles 10-17                      2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**

**Motion passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 18. Emergency Management Generator Replacement ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,500 to be added to the Emergency Management Generator Replacement Expendable Trust Fund. 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.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans                      2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 24. Set up Heritage Commission**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Historic District Commission, already established, to assume the composition and additional duties of a Heritage Commission as authorized by RSA 675:6, V and RSA 674:44-b; and further to increase its membership from the current five (5) members to seven (7) members, as authorized by RSA 673:4.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by Majority consent, 1 NO**

**Article 19. Set up Heritage Commission Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to carry out the purposes of the Heritage Commission as stated in RSA 674:44-d, such funds to be placed in a Heritage Fund so established and allowed to accumulate from year to year, as authorized by RSA 674:44-d. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by Majority consent, 1 NO**

**Article 20. This appropriation would allow repair of Engine 2**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to Refurbish Engine 2 Pumper? The sum of \$250,000 is to come from the Capital Reserve Fund Fire Truck & Equipment. 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.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 21. This appropriation is for the purchase of a repeater**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,000.00 for the purchase of an Antenna Repeater. 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.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 22. Town Owned Bridge CRF The previous established fund**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,500 to be added to the Town Owned Bridges Capital Reserve Fund. This sum is to be raised 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.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

**Article 23. Appointment of Town Treasurer**

Shall the Town vote to change the office of Town Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position in accordance with RSA 41:26-e. Such appointment shall be made in accordance with RSA 669:17- d by the Board of Selectmen. Such appointment shall be made in writing and shall include the compensation to be paid. If approved the person holding the elected office shall continue to hold such office until the next annual town election following the vote. (No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) The Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**Article moved by Leo Racine 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**

**Melissa Seamans motioned to make an amendment in warrant verbiage to add RSA 41:29. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Motion fails by majority consent**

**Christina Bertogli motioned to move question**

**Article 23 passed by unanimous consent**

**Erik Jones motion to restrict Articles 18-24      2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Seamans**

**Article 25. 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.

**Article moved by Chris Seamans                      2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Racine**

**Article passed by unanimous consent**

Melissa Seamans stood and recognized Leonard Espie, retiring Selectman. Melissa thanked Mr. Espie for his years of dedicated service, and selfless contributions to the community. Mr. Espie received a standing ovation from the people.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Hood  
Deputy Town Clerk  
Effingham, NH

