

Annual Town Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2022

The Following are the results from the Town Election, which was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The checklist reads 1016 voters. 312 ballots were cast, including 11 absentee ballots.

Article 01

Selectman 3 yr term	Charles "Chuck" Fuller	182
Selectman 1 yr term	Victoria Kirkwood	108
Trustee of Trust Funds 3 yr term	Carol Pfister	252
Library Trustee (2)3 yr terms	Grace C Fuller Sue Regal	236 *62
Budget Committee (2)3 yr terms	Rosemarie Wissenbach Steve Regal	152 124
Planning Board (2)3 yr terms	Grace C Fuller David Garceau	189 147
Zoning Board of Adjustment (2)3 yr terms	Alan Taylor Lawrence Edwards	*51 *71
Moderator 2 yr term	James Pittman	250
Supervisor of the Checklist 6 yr term	Carol Pfister	256

***Write in**

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2022-1 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 603 - Yards on Corner Lots, to clarify that if a lot faces one or more streets it would be deemed to have one or more front yards, respectively, with the remaining yards deemed side yards for setback purposes?

YES 175 NO 131

Article 3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2022-2 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to adopt Section 609 - Individual Subsurface Disposal Systems (ISDS), to ensure that septic systems meet the Effingham Health Ordinance and that new and replacement systems are approved by NH Dept. of Environmental Services; and to amend Section 707 to ensure nonconforming lots are capable of supporting an ISDS?

YES 185 NO 120

Article 4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2022-3 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 1011-Contractor's Storage Yard, to add minimum lot size and setbacks, and to require fencing/vegetative visual buffer?

YES 181 NO 125

Article 5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2022-4 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 1035-Warehouse Storage Site, for consistent minimum lot size, setbacks, and to require fencing/vegetative visual buffer?

YES 174 NO 132

Article 6. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2022-5 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 302 to add definition for *Vegetative Buffer*?

YES 192 NO 113

Article 7. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2022-6 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to amend Section 302 to rewrite in detail the definition of *School*?

YES 186 NO 117

Article 8. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2022-7 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: amending Section 607 to remove the word *residential* from the first sentence, and amend Section 1202 to add '*and its amendments*' to the first sentence? (*This is a housekeeping item.*)

YES 195 NO 105

Article 9. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2022-8 as proposed by the planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: to replace Section 1402 title with 'RV Seasonal Use Permit' and content with:

- A. No Recreational Vehicle ("RV") may be used as a permanent dwelling or residence in Effingham.
- B. To use an RV for the purposes set forth in this section, a landowner must first obtain an RV Seasonal Use Permit for the RV from the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- C. A landowner may place one RV for non-commercial recreation purposes on his or her property for up to 150 consecutive days between April 1 and October 31. The RV must be either removed, or closed up and not in use as per Section 1401 for the other five months. Further, all RV septic shall be decommissioned and winterized from November 1 until March 31.
- D. All RVs must be mobile and be legally registered. RVs must meet the setbacks for principal structures for the zoning district in which they are located. Lack or expiration of registration will void the RV Seasonal Use Permit. Any RV lacking valid registration must meet the Town of Effingham Zoning Ordinance for a structure.
- E. An RV must have adequate sanitary facilities. Applicant must demonstrate how solid waste and sewerage will be disposed of in a lawful manner per NH law and the Effingham Health Ordinance. Any unlawful disposal of solid waste or sewage will void this permit. Further,

upon expiration of a permit under this section, an RV must comply with all aspects of section 1401 of this Article?

YES 175 NO 131

Adjourn meeting at 7 PM. Meeting will reconvene at Effingham Elementary School on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 9:00 AM.

The Town meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 12. Moderator Slack announced that the Meals on Wheels in Ossipee is in need of volunteer drivers and encouraged anyone with the time to please volunteer.

Moderator Slack went over the rules of procedure, opening a motion, seconding the motion, using the microphone, and that all questions should be directed to the Moderator.

Town Clerk read the results of the Town Election from March 8, 2022.

Moderator Slack asked David Strauss, Chair of the Budget Committee, to speak about how the Budget Committee put together the budget this year.

Dave Strauss: Thanked everyone for attending the meeting today. He said that the Budget Committee met for a total of 12 hours this year and at least one member of the Budget Committee attended all of the Board of Selectmen's meetings.

In January and February, all the Articles were made available to the public on our website and in the office for their inspection.

The Budget before you will be an of increase .50 cents per thousand in December. We were faced with a large increase above that but we were able to reduce that by a lot of different means. You will hear numerous times in this meeting "unassigned fund balance," what we did was set up a process to go over the unassigned fund balance to understand what we had because we had more than what we projected. I talked to DRA, our Auditors, the Budget Committee and the Select Board. We all agreed that this is the best projection we have and we are comfortable with the numbers that we are presenting to you.

In the end, if we approve the projected \$633,000 from the unassigned fund balance, we will be left with \$638,000 in the unassigned fund balance.

Due to large compromise and hard work the Budget Committee was able to suppress a large increase by using the budget reduction, unassigned fund balance and the unspent operating budget known offsets. We feel the budget presented is in the best interest of our town and is submitted to maintain our infrastructure for our Town.

Moderator Slack asked to do the pledge of allegiance and asked the children to come forward and lead the pledge for us.

Article 10 Fire Truck and Equipment CRF

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Truck 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
Seconded by Erik Jones**

Description

This previous established fund (1963) would allow for the appropriation to be used towards the purchase, refurbish or equip fire trucks. It would not necessarily fund an entire fire truck so much as allow for a lesser expense or bond at the time of purchase.

Article Carries

Article 11 Fire Department Equipment ETF

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 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.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie
Seconded by Chuck Fuller**

Description

This previously established fund (2017) is for the purpose of purchasing or refurbishing fire department equipment.

Article Carries

Article 12 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 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 Chuck Fuller
Seconded by Lenny Espie**

Description

This previous established fund (1990) would allow for the appropriation to be used towards the purchase, refurbish or equip police cruisers.

Article Carries

Article 13 Police Safety Gear ETF

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 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 Chuck Fuller
Seconded by Lenny Espie**

Description

This previously established fund (2014) is for the purpose of purchasing protective gear, equipment, or garments for use by officers of the Effingham Police Department.

Article Carries

Article 14 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
Seconded by Erik Jones**

Description

This previously established fund (2003) is for the purpose of constructing, reconstructing, repairing buildings, site improvements and acquisition of equipment for recycling.

Article Carries

Article 15 Planning and Land Use ETF

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Planning and Land Use 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 Lenny Espie
Seconded by Jim Giguere**

Description

This previously established fund (2005) is for the purpose of updating the Master Plan, creating a Capital Improvement and other land use planning projects.

Article Carries

Article 16 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 Chuck Fuller
Seconded by Lenny Espie**

Description

This previously established fund (2018) is for the purpose of purchasing, maintaining and repairing municipal computer and network related hardware or software.

Carol Pfister asked that we please do not forget updating the Modular.

Article Carries

Article 17 Invasive Aquatic Plant Non-Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 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 Chuck Fuller
Seconded by Emelyn albert**

Description

This previously established fund (2004) is for the purpose of preventing and eradicating invasive aquatic plants that may be found in the public water of the Town. The Effingham Conservation Commission are agents to expend from the fund

Article Carries

Article 18 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. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie
Seconded by Theresa Swanick**

Description

This previously established fund (2013) is for the purpose of purchasing a State approved election voting machine.

Article Carries

A motion was made by Erik Jones and seconded by Mike Cahalane to restrict reconsideration of Articles 10-18. Motion Carries

Article 19 Fire Chief

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,600 for additional salary and benefits for the current year for the position of Fire Chief. NOTE: The amount requested under this article shall be used for an annual salary of \$25,000 to establish a part-time Fire Chief position effective April 1, 2022. The total salary is to come from daytime firefighter salaries operating budget in the amount of \$16,400 and \$8,600 from taxation. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**Article moved by Chuck Fuller
Seconded by Lenny Espie**

Description

This appropriation would allow the Town to hire a part time Fire Chief for \$25,000 plus associated payroll taxes. The Fire Chief will be working two (2) daytime shifts weekly.

A hand count was taken NO 52 YES 41. Article Fails

A motion was made by Matt Sawyer and seconded by Chris Seamans to restrict reconsideration on Article 19. Motion Fails

Article 20 Group 1 NH Retirement System

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,600 for employee participation in the New Hampshire Group 1 Retirement System? This sum is to come from taxation. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Description

This appropriation would allow for qualified employees to participate in the New Hampshire Retirement System. Currently one employee is qualified, the Town Administrator.

**Article moved by Chuck Fuller
Seconded by Lenny Espie**

A motion was made by Chuck Fuller and seconded by Leo Racine to amend the amount to \$5661.61 Amendment carries

Article carries as amended.

A motion was made by Erik Jones and seconded by Matt Sawyer to restrict reconsideration on Article 20. Motion carries

Article 21 Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$1,987,307 for general Municipal Operations. This amount is to come from taxation. Majority vote required. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

Description

This appropriation is for the operation of the Town, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

**Article moved by Mike Cahalane
Seconded by Eve Klotz**

A motion was made by Dan Felix and seconded by Mike Cahalane to add to the Public Safety line \$6,447. Motion carries

A motion was made by Matt Sawyer and seconded by Mellisa Seamans to increase the Culture and Recreation line by \$20,000. Motion Carries

A motion was made by Mike Cahalane and seconded by Eve Klotz to vote on the new bottom line. Article Carries as amended.

A motion was made by Matt Sawyer and seconded by Katie McCarthy to restrict reconsideration for Article 21. Motion carries.

Article 22 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 Lenny Espie
Seconded by Chuck Fuller**

Description

This previously established fund (2017) is for the purpose of maintaining town owned bridges.

Article Carries

Article 23 Bailey Road Bridge

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450,000 to complete the engineering plans and replace the culverts on Bailey Road? The sum of \$150,000 is to come from the ARPA funds and \$300,000 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 Chuck Fuller
Seconded by Jim Giguere**

Description

The Bailey Road culverts are failing. The culverts allow water to flow to South River from Province Lake. The Town made emergency temporary repairs in 2021. A complete reconstruction is necessary to stabilize the road and shoreline. The Town has received the sum of \$150,000 from ARPA funds to help offset the cost

A motion was made by Chuck Fuller and seconded by Lenny Espie to amend the amount to \$485,000 and \$335,000 coming from unassigned fund balance. Article carries as amended.

Article 24 Green Mountain Road 2.4 miles

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 to pave 2.4 miles of Green Mountain Road? The sum of \$250,000 from unassigned fund balance and \$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 Lenny Espie

Seconded by Chuck Fuller

Description

This appropriation would allow repair and pavement of the road from recently repaved section of Green Mountain Road to Route 25. The total project is estimated to cost \$650,000. \$150,000 has been encumbered from 2021 unspent road paving work. The remaining \$500,000 will come from the unassigned fund balance and taxation in equal amounts of \$250,000.

Article Carries**Article 25 Town Hall Repair and Rehabilitation ETF**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be added to the Town Hall Repair and Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund. The sum of \$50,000 is to come from the unassigned fund balance and \$10,000 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.

Description

This previously established fund (2005) is for the purpose to preserve the Town Hall building including making structural repairs/restorations and interior-exterior repairs/restorations to the building, systems and site as well as rehabilitation by altering or adding to the property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.

Article moved by Chuck Fuller

Seconded by Lenny Espie

Article carries

A motion was made by Erik Jones and seconded by Chris Seamans to restrict reconsideration on Articles 22-25. Motion carries.

Article 26 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
Seconded by Chuck Fuller**

Description

This previously established fund (1998) is for the purpose of repairing and maintaining all Municipal Buildings and parking lots.

Carol Pfister asked again that the modular not be forgotten.

Article carries

Article 27 Emergency Management Generator Replacement ETF

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 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 Chuck Fuller
Seconded by Lenny Espie**

Description

This previously established fund (2021) would allow for the appropriation to be used towards the purchasing or replacement of the Emergency Generators at the Effingham Elementary School, Fire Station Town Office or any other Town owned facility. There is a plan for the rotational replacement of the generators. Continued contributions to the fund reduce the amount required in any one year a replacement is required.

Article carries

Article 28 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
Seconded by Chuck Fuller**

Description

The Town received Mutual Aid funds from Parsonsfield Maine on an annual basis, the amount ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000. This warrant article would allow funds to be added to the previous established Fire Truck and Fire Truck Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (1963) which allows for the appropriation to be used towards the purchase, refurbish or equip fire trucks.

Article carries

Article 29 Rescind Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the following: Professional Contracted Services ETF, Salt Shed CRF, and Woodland Cemetery ETF. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipalities general fund. Majority vote required. The budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommend this article.

**Article moved by Lenny Espie
Seconded by Chuck Fuller**

A motion was made by George Bull and seconded by Grace Fuller to amend this article and remove Salt Shed CRF from this article.

Amendment carries.

Article carries as amended

Article 30 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 Grace Fuller

Seconded by Isaac Farley


Article Carries

Article 30 All Other Business

To transact any business that may legally come before said meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Deanna Amaral

Town Clerk

Effingham, NH