



Northumberland

The inhabitants of the Town of Northumberland in the County of Coos in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

First Session of Annual Meeting (Official Ballot Voting)

Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Time: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Location: Selectmen's Meeting Room, 10 Station Square
Details: Ballot Vote on Articles 1 - 2

Second Session of Annual Meeting (Transaction of All Other Business)

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023
Time: 10:00 am or shortly after the School Annual Meeting, whichever is later
Location: Groveton High School Ryan Auditorium, 65 State Street
Details: Discussion and vote on Articles 3 – 26

The Annual Town Election for the Town of Northumberland and Northumberland School District was declared opened at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, March 14, 2023, to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared open for the reception of ballots. Moderator Keith Young announced that the absentee ballots would be processed at 1:00 PM. At 7:00 PM Moderator Young announced that the polls were closed, and the counting process began.
304 ballots were cast (46 absentee and 258 election day voters)

School District Results:

Moderator: Keith Young 294
Board of Education: (2 Three-Year term) Tina Lunderville 206, James Weagle 197, Clint Bramlett 105
Board of Education 1 year: Samantha Young 286
Clerk: Courtney McLain 212
Treasurer: Melody Barney 293

Moderator Keith Young opened the Town of Northumberland business meeting at 12:00 PM 3/18/2023. He led the voters and attendees in the pledge of allegiance. Moderator Young went over the commonsense rules of the meeting.

James Tierney made a motion and Keith Bronson seconded allowing Tammy Letson, Peter Pelletier, and James Gibson to speak. Handheld card vote. Motion passed to allow the nonresidents to speak.

Tammy Letson, Town Administrator, talked about the state of the finances. Tammy had a power point presentation. A copy of the power point is filed with the minutes. Tammy felt that the selectboard could hold the tax rate but cannot guarantee.

Brian Sullivan asked about the MS 636. James Tierney pointed him to page 30.

*Articles 1-2 were printed on the official ballot



Article 01 Election of Officers

To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing three years: one Selectman, one Town Clerk & Tax Collector, one Treasurer, one Supervisor of the Checklist, one Library Trustee, one Trustee of Trust Funds and one Cemetery Trustee.

RESULTS:

SELECTMAN: James Weagle 161, Keith Bronson 89, Clint Bramlett 41

TCTX: Melinda Kennett 245

TREASURER: Melody Barney 296

SOC: Elaine Gray 265, Judith Fox 35

LIBRARY TRUSTEE: Nancy Merrow 286

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS: Lorna Aldrich 286

CEMETERY TRUSTEE: Terri Charron 287

Article 02 Election of Moderator (corrected by MK, Town Clerk 3/14/2023)

To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing two years: one Moderator.

RESULTS: Keith Young 294

Article 03 Hill water / sewer project

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,216,000 for the purpose of improvements to the water, sewer and drainage infrastructure, as well as appurtenances on the Eastern Slope of the residential-high section of "The Hill" area of Groveton Village and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$8,495,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) with the remaining balance to come from a grant of \$1,721,000 from USDA Rural Development; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state or other aid, grants and/or donations, if any, which may be available for said project, including but not limited to, a Drinking Water Ground Water Trust Fund grant in an estimated amount of \$1,500,000 and a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services American Rescue Plan Act fund grant in an estimated amount of \$995,800 which available funding shall be used to reduce the amount of bonds and/or notes to be issued, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; further, without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds, it is the intention and expectation that debt service on the bonds will be shared proportionally between water user fees and sewer user fees; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (3/5 ballot vote required)

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: Keith Bronson

BALLOT VOTE: YES 105, NO 53, 1 SKIP

Article 03 passed

Article 04 Petitioned lot line adjustment

We the current owners (Warranty deed since 2019 of said property at 53 Brown Rd in the Town of Groveton, NH formerly owned by Winona & William Osgoode, since 8-1983 (Warranty deed vol 659,pg 539) formerly owned by Lillian & Leon Roby since 8/1957 (see Warranty deed Vol 432 pg. 104) do Petition that the portion abutting piece of property that we all three (3) generations have cared for, be awarded to us the current owners of the property Laurie & Jason Clough legal descendants of all former owners who have deceased and the Cloughs have acquired said property known as Parcel 219-001-00-0. The property we are requesting is roughly about 1/3 of an acre. We are willing to pay the price of 5,000 dollars for this chunk of



property as well as pay the entire cost for only the small chunk of land we are requesting to be surveyed when the final vote has been made. (This article is by petition)

MOTION: Ryan Shannon

SECOND: Mario Audit

Vote to allow the Cass family to speak. Handheld card vote. Cass family allowed to speak.

James Tierney made a motion to amend, and William Caron seconded.

Amendment replaces the last sentence with: "We are willing to pay \$5000 for the purchase of the agreed upon portion of land and further pay for all expenses related to the Planning Board process including, but not limited to, the cost of a survey for both parcels in question, the notification of abutters, etc.; and further to grant the Town of Northumberland right-of-way access across said parcel to access the back of the Town's lot. Survey, Planning Board process, and purchase of property needs to be complete by April 2025."

Handheld card vote: 79 yes votes, 64 No votes.

Amended Article 4 passed.

Article 05 Make Road Agent position elected

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the appointed office of Highway Agent and to authorize the Town to elect the Highway Agent. The current Highway Agent shall continue to hold the office until the 2024 Annual Town Meeting election, at which time, the Town will elect a Highway Agent. If adopted, the authority of the Town to elect the Highway Agent shall continue in effect until changed by a majority vote at an annual or special meeting. (This article is by petition)

MOTION: Ryan Shannon

SECOND: Courtney McLain

Secret ballot request.

Yes 22 129 No 1 skip

Article 5 failed.

Article 06 Discontinue town administrator position

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue/ dissolve the Town Administrator position. If passed, this will take effect 30 days from the 2023 Town Meeting. (This article is by petition)

MOTION: Ryan Shannon

SECOND: Courtney McLain

Motion to amend the article to take out discontinue/dissolve and replace with "terminate" made by Ryan Shannon and seconded by Kyle Riff.

Secret Ballot: Yes 23 123 No 1 skip

Amendment to Article 6 failed.

Secret Ballot on original article: Yes 24 No 117

Article 6 failed.

Article 07 Operation and maintenance of the water department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$378,365 for the purpose of operating and maintaining the water department. Said funds to be raised from the water user fees. Any shortfall in the water user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the "regular water account". No amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: William Caron

SECOND: James Weagle

Handheld card vote



Article 7 passed as read.

Article 08 Operation and maintenance of the sewer department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$389,617 for the purpose of operating and maintaining the sewer department. Said funds to be raised from sewer user fees. Any shortfalls in the sewer user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the "regular sewer account". No amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: Keith Bronson

Handheld care vote.

Article 8 passed as read.

Article 09 Operating Budget-Town

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,157,991 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: William Caron

James Tierney made a motion to amend the operating budget to read \$3,172,991. William Caron seconded it. Secret Ballot on amendment. Yes 45 No 38. Amendment passes.

Motion by Ryan Shannon and seconded by Courtney McLain to amend article to \$2,607,991 by cutting \$324,716 out of Police line, \$246,682 from Ambulance line, and \$182,953 from Financial Administration line. Secret Ballot vote to amend: Yes 18 No 106. Amendment failed.

Secret Ballot vote on the original amendment of \$3,172,991. Yes 81 No 38.

Amended Article 9 passes.

Article 10 Bring police to a 24 / 7 department

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$294,857 for the purpose of hiring and outfitting more officers to be able to bring the department to be fully staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This staffing schedule will begin once all positions are filled. (Recommended by the board 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: Keith Bronson

Secret ballot vote: Yes 56 No 71

Article 10 failed.

Article 11 Appropriate to W/S CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be placed in the following Capital Reserve Fund at the amounts shown. \$20,000 to come from water user fees and \$20,000 to come from sewer user fees.

W/S Short-Lived Assets CRF - established 2020 \$40,000



(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required
 MOTION: James Tierney
 SECOND: Keith Bronson
 Handheld card vote. Article 11 passed as read.

Article 12 Appropriate to CRF / ETF from Fund Balance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$207,488 to be placed in the following Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds at the amounts shown. Said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No taxes will be raised with this article.

Police Cruiser CRF, established 2001	\$ 10,000
Road Maintenance CRF, established 2009	100,000
Municipal Buildings CRF, established 2010	10,000
Sludge Removal ETF, established 2011	50,000
Ambulance Equipment CRF established 2020	5,000
Ambulance purchase CRF established 1990	25,000
Transfer Station CRF	7,488

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required
 MOTION: James Tierney
 SECOND: Keith Bronson
 Handheld card vote. Article 12 passed as read.

Article 13 Legal CRF

To see if the town will vote to establish a Legal Expenses Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of paying extraordinary legal expenses and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in this fund. Said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: James Tierney
 SECOND: Keith Bronson
 Handheld care vote. Article 13 passed as read.

Article 14 Create Town celebration / history ETF

To see if the town will vote to establish a Town Celebration / History Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, to be used toward any future town celebrations, such as the 250th celebration, and assist with costs involved in updating the town history and, further, to raise and appropriate \$1,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from unassigned fund balance; further to name the board of selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required
 MOTION: William Caron
 SECOND: James Tierney
 Handheld card vote. Article 14 passed as read.

Article 15 Charitable Organization



To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,174 to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency	\$ 12,759
Northern Human Services	3,100
Tri-County Community Action Programs	5,315
American Red Cross NH & VT Region	2,200
Center for New Beginnings	500
Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce	1,063
St. Paul's Episcopal Church "Backpack" Program	1,737
Androscoggin Valley Home Care Services	10,000
CASA	500

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: Keith Bronson

Handheld card vote. Article 15 passed as read.

Article 16 Lancaster Food Pantry

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the benefit of the Lancaster Food Pantry. \$4,000 to buy food for clients and \$1,000 to keep serving hot meals.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: Melinda Kennett

SECOND: James Tierney

Handheld card vote. Article 16 passed as read.

Article 17 Appropriate to Groveton Volunteer Beautification

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,500 for the purpose of supporting the Groveton Volunteer Beautification Committee. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: Melinda Kennett

SECOND: Keith Bronson

Handheld card vote. Article 17 passed as read.

Article 18 Highway garage doors

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,000 to replace two doors at the highway garage. Said funds to come from fund balance. No taxes will be raised with this article. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: William Caron

Handheld card vote. Article 18 passed as read.

Article 19 Sidewalk upgrades

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of upgrading sidewalks in town. Said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. 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 2028, whichever is sooner. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required



MOTION: James Tierney
SECOND: William Caron
Handheld card vote. Article 19 passed as read.

Article 20 Readopt veterans tax credit

To see if the town shall readopt the all-veterans tax credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans tax credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28. Currently this credit amount is \$100. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) (Majority vote required)

MOTION: William Caron

SECOND: James Tierney

Motion to amend article to read \$350 up from the \$100 was made by Robin Gregg and seconded by Shawn Gregg. Handheld cards vote to amend. Amendment passes. Handheld card vote on amended article. Amended Article 20 passed.

Article 21 Expand Police Revolving Fund

To see if the town will vote to expand the police revolving fund established in 2009 to allow funds generated by parking tickets, generated by citations, and given by donations to be placed in this fund. The funds shall continue to be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund unassigned fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all money in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Selectmen, and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) Majority vote required

MOTION: William Caron

SECOND: James Tierney

Handheld card vote. Article 21 passed as read.

Article 22 Accept precinct

To see if the town will vote to accept the Groveton Village Precinct along with all assets, including, but not limited to, all property, real and personal; all liabilities, including, but not limited to, any unpaid bonds, notes, bills or other obligations incurred while the district was in existence; and any remaining fund balance. The town shall then have the power and responsibility to pay any bonds, notes, bills or other obligations incurred by the precinct and still outstanding as of the dissolution date. This article will take effect January 1, 2024 only if both the town votes to accept the Groveton Village Precinct and the Groveton Village Precinct votes to dissolve at their respective 2023 annual meetings. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0) 2/3 vote required

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: William Caron

Motion made by James Tierney and seconded by Keith Bronson to amend article to add: "Further, to organize the fire department with the following form, as laid out in RSA 154:1, having the governing body appoint a fire chief and, upon recommendation of the fire chief, have the governing body appoint firefighters." Handheld cards vote to amend. Amendment passes. Handheld cards vote on amended Article 22. Amended Article 22 passes.

Article 23 Accept donations



To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to accept gifts, legacies, donations, and devises for public purposes that is not foreign to or incompatible with the Town's functions. This authorization, in accordance with RSA 31:19, shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the town meeting. (Recommended by the board 3-0) Majority vote required.

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: William Caron

Handheld card vote. Article 23 passed as read.

Article 24 Selectmen to appoint all other officers as require

To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

MOTION: William Caron

SECOND: James Tierney

Handheld card vote. Article 24 passed as read.

Article 25 Hear reports

To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees, or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote related thereto.

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: William Caron

Handheld card vote. Article 25 passed as read.

Article 26 Transact any other business

To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

MOTION: James Tierney

SECOND: Keith Bronson

Handheld card vote. Article 26 passed as read.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Heidi Platt

SECOND: Michael Simino

ADJOURNED: Moderator Keith Young adjourned at 4:30 pm, 3/18/2023

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Kennett

NH Certified Town Clerk of Northumberland