

2022

Northumberland Town Meeting
Minutes

Northumberland Town Meeting Minutes

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:

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Location: 65 State St. – Groveton High School Ryan Auditorium

Details: Ballot Vote on Articles 1-2 held Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Northumberland Selectmen's Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

The Annual Town Election for the Town of Northumberland and Northumberland School District was declared opened at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 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.

279 ballots were cast (36 absentee and 243 election day voters)

School District Results:

Moderator: Keith Young 93 (write-in)

Board of Education: (2 Three-Year term) **William Everleth 165, Louise Collins 161**, Bruce Pelletier 120

Clerk: Kathy Wiles 38 (write-in) (resigned 3/12/22) Kathy Frechette appointed for 3/12/22 meeting. **VACANT**

Treasurer: Melody Barney 261

Moderator Keith Young opened the Town of Northumberland business meeting at 11:35 am, March 12, 2022. He led the voters and attendees in the pledge of allegiance and also led the group in a moment of silence in honor of deceased selectboard member, Michael Phillips. Moderator Young went over the commonsense rules of the meeting.

*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 Library Trustee, one Trustee of Trust Funds and one Cemetery Trustee.

BALLOT VOTE RESULTS:

Selectman: James Tierney 182, James Weagle 88

Library Trustee: Mark Robinson 243

Trustee of Trust Funds: Heidi Platt 6 (write-in) (respectfully declined) **VACANT**

Cemetery Trustee: Thomas Covell 263

Article 02 Election of Supervisor of the Checklist

To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing six years: one Supervisor of the Checklist.

BALLOT VOTE RESULTS:

Terri Charron 14 (write-in)

Article 03 To set the compensation of Town Elected Officials

To see if the Town will vote to set the annual compensation for the following Town elected officials. These amounts are included in the Town operating budget in Article 8

Board of Selectmen	3@\$2,400	\$7,200
Treasurer		\$1,500
Supervisors of the Check List	3@\$880.33	\$2,641
Moderator		\$600

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: William Caron

Article 3 passed as read.

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by William Caron to allow Tammy Letson, James Gibson, and Peter Pelletier to speak as nonresidents. Hand held card vote. Motion passed.

Article 04 To set the compensation of Town elected official

To see if the Town will vote to set the annual compensation of the elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector. This amount is included in the Town operating budget in Article 8.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector \$50,000

In the event the Selectmen make a cost-of-living increase to Town full-time employee compensation, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector compensation shall also increase by a corresponding amount. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector shall also receive all benefits offered to Town of Northumberland full time employees. If this position is filled by someone other than the current Town Clerk/Tax Collector, compensation will be adjusted upon election / appointment to an amount commensurate with experience and level of certification.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: Keith Bronson

SECOND: William Caron

Article 4 passed as read.

Article 05 Operation and maintenance of the water department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$353,709 for the purpose of operating and maintaining the water department. Said funds to be raised from the water user

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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)

MOTION: James Weagle
 SECOND: William Caron
 Article 5 passed as read.

Article 06 Operation and maintenance of the sewer department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$347,833 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)

MOTION: William Caron
 SECOND: Keith Bronson
 Article 6 passed as read.

Article 07 COPS Grant

To see if the Town will vote to approve a 48-month CHP (COPS Hiring Program) Grant Agreement with USDOJ for the purpose of the Town's hiring and employment of two additional full-time Police Officers for at least 48 months; and further to raise and appropriate \$142,428 for the 2022 wages and benefits for the two additional Police Officers, with \$71,214 to be raised by taxation and \$71,214 from Grant revenue. Under the terms of the CHP Grant, USDOJ will pay the Town a total of \$250,000 during the first 36 months to offset the Town's costs. The total estimated cost of employing two full-time Police Officers for 48 months is \$728,188, and the Town's share of this cost will be \$478,188, broken down as follows:

	Salary	Benefits	Total Cost	Grant rev	Town Share
2022	83,200	59,228	142,428	71,214	71,214
2023	107,120	69,170	176,290	88,145	88,145
2024	110,334	71,872	182,206	90,641	91,565
2025	113,644	74,686	188,330	- 0 -	188,330
2026	23,411	15,523	38,934	- 0 -	38,934
Totals	437,709	290,479	728,188	250,000	478,188

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)
 MOTION: James Weagle
 SECOND: Keith Bronson
 Article 7 passed as read.

Article 08 Operating Budget-Town

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,760,406 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately, except for Articles 03 and 04 regarding compensation of town officials. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: James Weagle
 SECOND: William Caron
 Article 8 passed as read.

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Article 09 Appropriate to CRF's, ETF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$191,090 to be placed in the following Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds at the amounts shown. Water / sewer short-lived assets to come from water and sewer user fees, the balance of \$140,000 to come from taxes.

Police Cruiser CRF, established 2001	\$10,000
Road Maintenance CRF, established 2009	\$50,000
Municipal Buildings CRF, established 2010	\$10,000
Sludge Removal ETF, established 2011	\$65,000
Ambulance Equipment CRF established 2020	\$5,000
Water /Sewer Short-Lived Assets CRF established 2020	\$51,090

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: William Caron

SECOND: Keith Bronson

Article 9 passed as read.

Article 10 Appropriate to CRF / ETF from Fund Balance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$51,118 to be placed in the following Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds at the amounts shown. Said funds to come from unassigned fund balance, representing the 2021 sale of scrap metal, a portion of the unspent balance of the 2021 ambulance budget, and the unspent balance of the 2021 health reimbursement budget.

Transfer Station CRF	\$7,118
Health reimbursement ETF	\$4,000
Ambulance CRF	\$40,000

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: William Caron

Article 10 passed as read.

Article 11 Charitable Organization

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,848 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	\$ 5,350
American Red Cross NH & VT Region	\$ 2,200
Center for New Beginnings	\$ 500
Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,219
Caleb Caregivers	\$3,000
St. Paul's Episcopal Church "Backpack" Program	\$1,220
Project Homebound	\$1,000
Androscoggin Valley Home Care Services	\$8,000
CASA	\$ 500

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: William Caron

SECOND: Keith Bronson

Article 11 passed as read.

Article 12 Appropriate to Groveton Volunteer Beautification C

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,208 for the purpose of supporting the Groveton Volunteer Beautification Committee. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: William Caron

Article 12 passed as read.

Article 13 Municipal Building Research

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for the purpose of studies, inspections, research, design proposals and preparation of plans for a new public safety building options to present to a future town meeting with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. No taxes will be raised with this article.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: William Caron

Article 13 passed as read.

Article 14 Locality Grant

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$56,000 for the purpose of purchasing safety and emergency equipment needed as a result of or in response to the health crisis and its negative effects. \$50,000 to come from a State Grant and \$6,000 to come from unassigned fund balance. If the grant is not fully received, the remainder to be raised through taxation.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: William Caron

Article 14 passed as read.

Article 15 Wellhead land purchase

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$74,900 to acquire from Roger D. Mayhew et al a certain 19.05-acre parcel of land upon which the municipal wells are located and is identified on the Town's tax map as Map 213, Lot 004, for the purpose of protecting the Town's water sources and well heads. \$37,450 (50%) to come from the State's Drinking Water Ground Water Trust Fund and the remaining 50% to come from unassigned fund balance. No taxes will be raised with this article. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: Keith Bronson

Article 15 passed as read.

Article 16 Reopen Page Hill ATV use

To see if the town will vote to reopen Page Hill for the purpose of ATV use (Inserted by petition of voters)

MOTION: Nancy Merrow

SECOND: Gina Bedell

Article 16 failed

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Article 17 Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required

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 Weagle

Article 17 passed as read.

Article 18 Hear reports

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

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: William Caron

Article 18 passed as read.

Article 19 Transact any other business

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

MOTION: James Weagle

SECOND: William Caron

Article 19 passed as read.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Melinda Kennett

SECOND: Courtney McLain

ADJOURNED: By Moderator Keith Young as voted on at 1:30 pm, March 12, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Kennett
NH Certified Town Clerk of Northumberland