

Town Warrant Narrative 2014

This narrative, provided in concert to the Town Meeting Warrant, is intended to be informational in nature, and states the purpose and rationale of the articles. The State of New Hampshire Budget Reporting Form identified as the **MS-7**, which is printed in your Town Report, provides details as to prior year's appropriations and expended end of year totals for both the operational aspects and capital acquisitions together with proposed 2014 requests.

B *allot Articles*

Articles 1 through 8 are ballot-voting articles, which will require action, either by voting in person at the election or by absentee ballot. All absentee ballots should be directed through the office of the Town Clerk. Voting will take place:

Where: Whitney Hall Auditorium, 23 Main Street, Enfield
When: Tuesday, March 11, 2014
Polls Open: 8:00 a.m. **Polls Close:** 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: If you have not yet registered to vote, you may register on the actual day of voting. For quickest registration, please bring the following identification items with you: birth certificate or passport, AND driver's license or non-driver's identity card. If your driver's license does not list your Enfield address you must also bring proof of your residence, such as your auto registration, lease agreement, or utility bill.

No ID – No Problem – you'll simply have to sign an affidavit in the presence of an election official.

Article 1: Election of Town Officers for the ensuing year.

For Two Years: One Moderator

For Three Years: One Selectman
One Town Clerk
One Treasurer
One Trustee of Trust Funds
One Cemetery Trustee
One Fire Ward
One Library Trustee
One Zoning Board of Adjustment Member
Three Budget Committee Members

For Six Years: One Supervisor of the Checklist

Articles 2 – 8: Amendments to the Enfield Zoning Ordinance

Deliberative Session

Meeting will reconvene:

When: Saturday, March 15, 2014
Place: Enfield Elementary School, 271 US Route 4, Enfield
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Operational Budget

Article 9: This article authorizes the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement over a ten (10) year period for two one-ton trucks and one fully equipped six wheeled truck (GVW 25,100). The proposed vehicles will replace current vehicles from our fleet. The Selectmen, as agents to expend for the Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund, can authorize the withdrawal of funds for the annual lease payments. Said funds would offset the appropriation thereby having no impact on the 2014 tax rate.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's and Selectmen's recommended sum of five million, four hundred seventy-seven thousand, five hundred sixty-one and 00/100 dollars, (**\$5,477,561**), for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. This article is indicative of the operational appropriations for Town operations, including Water and Sewer, as depicted on the MS-7 Budget of the Town Form. This article includes the personnel costs for our employees which constitute about 55% of the general fund appropriations. The 2014 Budget does address a few deferred maintenance items, specifically our gravel roads, and our municipal buildings.

Article 11: This article authorizes the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement over a four (4) year period for a new cruiser. The Selectmen, as agents to expend for the Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund, can authorize the withdrawal of funds for the annual lease payments. Said funds would offset the appropriation thereby having no impact on the 2014 tax rate.

Article 12: The Capital Improvement Program Committee worked diligently over the past year reviewing the Capital Improvement Program. If approved by Town Meeting, the addition of \$291,783 to the CIP Capital Reserve Fund as proposed by the CIP Committee will aid the Town in maintaining a stable tax rate, while allowing the Town to plan and fund for future capital needs.

Article 13: This article will address a problem area for Mascoma Lake visitors. The Town has already secured a permit to repair the boat ramp into Mascoma Lake; we are seeking additional funds to secure a permit to pave the boat parking area. (This appropriation will have no impact on the 2014 municipal tax rate.)

Article 14: This article would allow any property owner to pre-pay their taxes before a tax bill was issued, and allow the Tax Collector to accept those funds. **Majority Vote Required**

Article 15 and Article 16: We have not updated the exemptions since 2004/2005. These articles will raise the income limits as well as make the limits the same for both elderly and disabled exemptions. To qualify, the person must be eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the Federal Social Security Act, must occupy the property as his or her principal place of abode, must own the property individual or jointly, or if owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years, had in the calendar year

preceding April 1 a net income from all sources, of not more than \$26,000 if single, and \$36,000 if married, own net assets not in excess of \$70,000.

Article 17: The Town is seeking to add two projects to the TIF Project list. The first project is the replacement of the two 48" culverts under Lovejoy Brook Road with a 4' x 8' concrete box culvert. The Town has applied for a hazard mitigation grant to assist with the payment of the project. The current culverts regularly fail and the road floods as a result. The new box culvert will fix that problem. The second project is for the site work associated with construction of the new Library behind Whitney Hall. The parking lot will need to be redesigned and paved as a result of the library's construction.

Article 18: Robert LaCroix owns property on Lovejoy Brook Road, identified as Map 15, Lot 5. A portion of this property, approximately 1.49 acres, lies within the wellhead protection area for the Prior Wells. Mr. LaCroix has offered to donate this land to the Town. If Article 18 is approved, a lot line adjustment would transfer approximately 1.49 acres to the Town of Enfield as part of the Prior Well lot, Map 15, Lot 1. This article has no impact on the 2014 tax rate.

Article 19: The Mascoma Valley Dog Park Supporters have asked the Town to allow the construction of a dog park on a section of the Shaker Recreation Park fields. The property will remain at all times the property of the Town of Enfield. All costs of construction, operation, and maintenance will be paid for by funds raised by the Mascoma Valley Dog Park Supporters, a nonprofit group. The Mascoma Valley Dog Park Supporters, with the approval of the Recreation Department and Selectboard, will be responsible for the planning, development, and management of the dog park. This article has no impact on the 2014 tax rate.

Article 20: This article authorizes the transfer of funds in accordance with section 9(a) of the Municipal Cemetery Rules & Regulations, as revised, which states that monies from the sale of all cemetery lots sold after January 1, 1996 will go into a Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund. The monies are used for the care and maintenance of all municipal cemeteries or left in the Trust to increase the Trust Fund. This article has no impact on the proposed 2014 Tax Rate.

Article 21: This article allows voters to transact any other business that may legally come before Town Meeting. Items brought up for discussion can only be advisory or informational in content and nature. Any items requesting the Town to raise and appropriate money cannot come before the meeting under this article.