

Town of Northwood
New Hampshire



Voter's Guide

2019 Town Meeting
Session #1 (Deliberative Session)
Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 – 9:00 AM
Snow Date: Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019 – 9:00 AM
Coe-Brown Northwood Academy

Session #2 (Ballot Voting)
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
St. Joseph Church Parish Center
844 First NH Turnpike
Polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Article 1: ELECTIONS

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

Article 2: NORTHWOOD SAFETY COMPLEX

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five million nine hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$5,975,000)** for the purpose of purchasing land, and for designing, engineering and constructing a Public Safety Complex, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$5,975,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. . There is no tax impact in 2019. The tax impact in 2020 is \$1.18 est. **(Tax impact: 0) (3/5 vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/0)**

The public safety complex will include new construction built to replace the existing Ridge Fire Station and the Northwood Police Station. The existing Ridge Fire Station and the Northwood Police Station are not in suitable condition to accommodate the operating needs of department personnel. This article includes funds for the land purchase, site development, and safety complex building.

Article 3: LAND PURCHASE FOR THE NORTHWOOD SAFETY COMPLEX

In case article #2 fails will the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred twenty-nine thousand nine hundred dollars (\$229,900)** for the purchase of land located at 635 First NH Turnpike consisting of 6.91 acres +/- for the future placement of the Public Safety Complex. **(Tax Impact: \$0.49) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

If article#3 should fail, this will enable to town to purchase and retain the piece of land chosen by the safety complex committee for a future Public Safety Complex.

Article 4: 2019 OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **three million seven hundred sixty thousand six hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$3,760,658)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **three million six hundred sixteen thousand eight hundred fifteen dollars (\$3,616,815)** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **(Tax impact: \$0.24) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/0)**

Article 5: LANGUAGE - PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will add the following language, which was omitted by error, to the previously established Public Safety Complex Capital Reserve Fund; Insert "These funds may be expended for all costs related to the Public Safety Complex and furthermore to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (2/3 vote required)**

This article changes the language of the trust fund to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend.

Article 6: APPOINTING PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN IN PLACE OF ELECTED ROAD AGENT

To see if the Town will authorize the selectmen to appoint the town public works foreman in accordance with RSA 231:62, rather than electing a highway agent. If approved, the elected road agent will continue to hold office until March, 2020 town meeting, at which time the elected office shall terminate. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0)**

If approved, this article will replace the existing Road Agent position with a Public Works Foreman appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Article 7: FIRE APPARATUS LEASE/PURCHASE

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of **fifty-six thousand nine hundred twelve dollars (\$56,912)** for the fifth of five yearly payments for the lease/purchase of the new pumper truck, and to fund the payment by withdrawing the sum from the Fire/Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund. This lease agreement was approved in 2015 and does not contain an escape clause. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

This article is to authorize the final payment on the lease for the Fire/Rescue pumper truck purchased in 2015.

Article 8: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSITS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty thousand eight hundred eighty six dollars (\$40,886)**, to be placed in the following existing expendable trust funds created under RSA 31:19 - a. These amounts represent the amount of user fees deposited in the general fund in 2018 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of the sum from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2018. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 15/0)**

Cable Expendable Trust Fund \$19,059.00	Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund \$21,427.00
Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund \$400.00	

This article will authorize the transfer of 2018 user fees from the general fund, into the trust funds held by the treasurer.

Article 9: VESTED BENEFIT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to be added to the Benefit Vested Time Expendable Trust Fund previously established. **(Tax Impact: \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Vested Benefit Expendable Trust is for the accrued time earned by long term employees. When an employee leaves, their accrued time will get paid from the trust fund so as not to impact the operating budget.

Article 10: HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK LEASE

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a seven-year lease/purchase agreement for **one hundred sixty one thousand six hundred seventy dollars (\$161,670)** for the purpose of leasing a new highway dump truck and to raise and appropriate an amount of twenty six thousand one hundred six dollars **(\$26,106)** for the first year's lease. The lease Agreement contains an escape clause. **(Tax impact: \$0.05) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

If approved, this article will allow the Selectmen to lease/purchase a new highway dump truck equipped for plowing.

Article 11: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$18,500)** to be deposited into the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. **(Tax Impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

This article deposits funds into the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. This fund is used for payment of equipment and/or vehicle leases and is intended to accrue until needed to avoid fluctuations in the operating budget.

Article 12: POLICE EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six thousand dollars (\$6,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee (13/0)**

This article deposits funds into the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This fund is used to offset costs to purchase police equipment.

Article 13: POLICE DEPT. CREATION OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **sixteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-four dollars and nine cents (\$16,994.09)** 20% of the total salary and benefits for the creation of a School Resource Officer position. This warrant article is contingent on the passage of a warrant article at the School District that would raise and appropriate the remaining 80%. **(Tax Impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 0/3) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 10/3)**

The police department and the school district have asked the town to create and fund the position of a School Resource Officer at Northwood School.

Article 14: LAGOON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen thousand six hundred twenty five dollars (**\$14,625**), to be placed in the Lagoon Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that amount from the Lagoon Special Revenue Fund held by the Northwood Treasurer. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 15/0)**

This article is to allow the deposit of user fees into the Lagoon Expendable Trust fund. These funds are used for state licensing and monitoring of the lagoon, as well as the fees for the consultant to do the required testing of the lagoon.

Article 15: FACILITIES COMMITTEE EXPENDABLE TRUST DEPOSIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **seventeen thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$17,750)** to be deposited into the Facilities Committee Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement, repairs and replacement of general government buildings. **(Tax Impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/0)**

This deposit into the expendable trust is to cover the costs of the 2019 Facilities Committee projects. Major projects for 2019 are paving the Chesley Library parking lot, and painting the exterior of the Chesley Library.

Article 16: NORTHWOOD'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EXPENDABLE TRUST

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two thousand dollars (\$2,000)** to be deposited into the 250th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund to support efforts to recognize the town's 250th anniversary. **(Tax Impact: Less than \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13/0)**

Deposits into this trust fund will be used for the town to recognize our 250th anniversary in year 2023. By depositing each year, the cost for the celebration will not impact our future budget when needed.

Article 17: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BACKHOE LEASE/PURCHASE

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty thousand two hundred ninety-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents (\$20,297.79)** for the second of five yearly payments for the lease/purchase of the new backhoe. This lease agreement was approved in 2018 and does contain an escape clause. **(Tax Impact: \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13/0)**

This article is for the second payment of the five-year lease/purchase of the town's highway backhoe purchased in 2018.

Article 18: ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)** to be used for the construction, reconstruction, and/or resurfacing of town

roads, and the refurbishing of ditches and culverts as recommended by the Highway Advisory Committee. **(Tax Impact: \$0.21) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13/0)**

These funds enable the town to complete road projects currently listed for 2019 in the town's road plan.

Article 19: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **seven thousand dollars (\$7,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Expendable Trust fund. **(Tax Impact: \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13/0)**

This article deposits funds into an expendable trust fund used to prevent invasive species from entering our lakes and ponds that currently do not have invasive species.

Article 20: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT AND CONTROL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Control Expendable Trust Fund. **(Tax Impact: \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13/0)**

This article deposits funds into an expendable trust fund used to control and treat lakes and ponds that currently have an invasive species problem.

Article 21: SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a five-year lease/purchase agreement for **one hundred eighty seven thousand seven hundred dollars (\$187,700)** for the purpose of leasing the Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment and to raise and appropriate an amount of forty five thousand dollars **(\$45,000)** for the first year's lease payment. The lease Agreement contains an escape clause **(Tax impact: \$0.10) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/0)**

The fire department's breathing apparatus and cascade system is at the end of its useful life cycle. The current apparatus is going to expire in March 2020. This is life safety gear for our fire personnel used when responding to fire calls.

Article 22: Allow Keno Games within Northwood

To see in the Town shall allow the operation of Keno games within the Town of Northwood. (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3/0)

Article 23: OTHER BUSINESS

To transact any other business that can legally come before this meeting.

NORTHWOOD PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDED ZONING AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1: Section III. Definitions

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend the definitions of a "structure" and a "driveway" to clarify that unpaved driveways are not considered structures.

The existing definition of "structure" contains confusing and potentially conflicting interpretations regarding whether a driveway is considered a structure, which in turn has implications for whether driveways are impacted by setbacks or overlay districts. The proposed change is intended to codify Northwood's prevailing interpretation of the existing code. The language was changed to "paved" vs. "unpaved" instead of "driveways with a manmade surface" and "driveways with a natural surface" to provide the clearest possible distinction between driveway types.

Amendment 2: Section II. Administrative Provisions

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Add a new section to II.F regarding the Zoning Board of Adjustment referencing the expiration of variances and special exceptions approved after August 19, 2013 consistent with state law described in RSA 674:33.

This proposed amendment would add a reference to Section II Administrative Provisions to reference the language found in state statute and improve awareness for members of the public who may be unfamiliar with RSA 674:33. Since the provisions of this amendment are already in state statute, passage of this amendment should not have any regulatory impact; instead, it would serve primarily as a source of information.

Amendment 3: Section II. Administrative Provisions

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Add a new section to II.F regarding the Zoning Board of Adjustment scheduling the termination of variances and special exceptions that were approved before August 19, 2013 and have not been exercised. If approved, this amendment would require public notice to be posted for one year and unused variances and special exceptions would terminate two years after the expiration of the public notice.

Current state law provides that variances and special exceptions granted by the ZBA under their respective statutes expire two years after the date of approval. This statute went into effect on August 19, 2013 and made no provision for the expiration of either variances or special exceptions that had been approved prior to that date. 2018 HB 1533 allows municipalities to terminate variances and special exceptions that were approved prior to this effective date and outlines the process for this termination. If this amendment passes at Town Meeting 2019 the Planning Board will need to post notice of the pending termination for one year (i.e. until approximately April 2020) and clearly state the expiration date of the notice. Once the notice expires, property owners with applicable variances and special exceptions would have two years (i.e. until approximately April

2022) to act upon that variance or special exception. As with normal expirations, this time limit could be extended by the ZBA for just cause, or to allow for resolution of a planning application that relies upon the variance or special exception. This amendment would establish a consistent process for the expiration of ZBA actions and eliminate legacy approvals, many of which would have been approved under a prior version of this ordinance.

Amendment 4: Section IV. General District

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend multiple sections of Section IV. General District to clarify that zoning provisions apply to all lots of record, not only new lots. This amendment would not impact uses, structures, or lots that have non-conforming rights.

Several sections of the zoning ordinance apply requirements to "new" or "newly created" lots and development. While such requirements are most often applied at the time of subdivision or initial development, zoning ordinance requirements are typically understood to be continually applicable, including in the event of redevelopment, renovation, or lot line adjustments. Uses, structures, or lots that predate a particular requirement would have non-conforming rights as outlined in Section VII. Non-Conformity. Those rights will not be impacted by this change.

Amendment 5: Section VI. Overlay Districts

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Replace Section VI.E with a new Section VI.E Steep Slope Protection Overlay District that sets a minimum threshold of 2,000 square feet of sloped area for the overlay to apply, revises the criteria and application materials for granting a Special Exception, and makes administrative changes to the overlay regarding the purpose, authority, and cost statements.

The current ordinance contains an apparent contradiction between the intermediate slopes area, which is identified as applying to all construction (historically applied to include large scale moving of earth), and the restricted slopes area, which applies only to the construction of roads or structures.

Amendment 6: Section III Definitions; Section VII. Non-Conformity

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend Section III to add a new defined term, Seasonal Dwelling, amend Section V to add Seasonal Dwellings to Table V-1 as a permitted use in column 1, and add a new Section VII.D Expansion and Conversion of Seasonal Dwellings regulating their conversion to year-round dwellings.

The Town of Northwood's zoning ordinances are currently silent on how to treat the conversion of existing seasonal residences to year-round homes rendering an ambiguous process by which to evaluate and decide upon how permits should be issued for such requests. The conversion from seasonal to permanent occupancy intensifies and changes the nature of the site development. The proposed ordinance provides a basis for which to establish that any such change will not have an adverse effect to health, safety and welfare.