

Town of Northwood  
New Hampshire



## ***Voter's Guide***

2018 Town Meeting  
Session #1 (Deliberative Session)  
**Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018 – 9:00 AM**  
***Snow Date: Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018 – 9:00 AM***  
Coe-Brown Northwood Academy

Session #2 (Ballot Voting)  
**Tuesday, March 13, 2018**  
St. Joseph Church Parish Center  
844 First NH Turnpike  
Polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Residents of Northwood:

We are pleased to provide the 2018 Voter's Guide to town residents. In this document you will find the list of warrant articles that provide funding for Northwood's operation along with administrative warrants that help the town run more smoothly. There is an explanation of the warrants in italics below each of the warrants.

Here at town hall we also thought it might make your decision-making process easier if we explained tax impact. You will find that explanation below:

### **Tax Impact Explained**

#### **Warrants with funding requests:**

These are for projects like repairing red listed bridge (Article9) and adding funds to the Red Listed Bridges Capital Reserve (Article 10); some of these types of warrants have a tax impact. These impacts are disclosing the additional cost for every thousand dollars of your assessed property value.

Some warrants will have a funding request but No Tax Impact. This is because the funding is coming from a source other than direct taxation in 2018. For example, Article 3 (the fire engine payment), has no tax impact because the funds in the special revenue account come from ambulance fees and not from taxation. For Article 4, the \$55,654 deposit into the expendable trust funds came from user fees collected throughout the year so there is no tax impact. This type of warrant will say No Tax Impact after the language of the warrant.

***First Session:*** The deliberative session shall consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the Warrant Articles numbered two (2) through twenty-one (21). The Warrant Articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) Warrant Articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, and (b) Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion as amended.

***Second Session:*** The Voting Session to act on all Warrant Articles, as amended, including the proposed budget, as a result of the action of the "*First Session*".

#### **Article 1: ELECTIONS**

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

#### **Article 2: 2018 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 six hundred forty seven thousand four hundred twenty-four dollars (\$3,647,424)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **three million five hundred thirty-five thousand six hundred eighty dollars (\$3,535,680)** 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: \$0.15)**  
**(Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*This article is the operating budget for the town. It contains funding for all departments and services. There is NO cost of living adjustments (COLA) included this year for town employees. This year's budget has a purchase of a new police cruiser and an employee time and attendance software package.*

**ARTICLE 3: 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 fourth of five yearly payments for the lease/purchase of the new pumper truck, and to fund the payment by withdrawing the sum of **fifty-six thousand nine hundred twelve dollars (\$56,912)** 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 authorizes the yearly payment for the new pumper truck out of the special revenue fund used to purchase fire and rescue equipment. This is the fourth of five payments on the five-year lease/purchase*

**Article 4: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSITS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty five thousand six hundred fifty four dollars (\$55,654.00)**, 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 2017 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of **55,654.00** from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2017. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 13/0)**

<b>Cable Expendable Trust Fund \$36,708.00</b>	<b>Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund \$17,846.00</b>
<b>Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund \$1,100.00</b>	

*This article requests approval to deposit the 2017 proceeds from the above listed services / or user fees into the expendable trust funds set up for their individual operation and maintenance. The trust funds have the current balances of Cable: \$51,786, Transfer station: \$ 52,473, Cemetery Perpetual care: \$213,119.*

**Article 5: 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: \$.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*The establishment of this fund was approved by the voters several years ago as a way to limit the impact of a long-term employee retiring and collecting accrued separation benefits. Without this fund, the money would come directly from the department budget line for salary, impairing the town's ability to replace critical staff and provide services. The town's accrued liabilities as of December 31, 2017 are \$129,013; the fund currently has \$22,619.*

**Article 6: DEFIBRILLATOR PAYMENT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirteen thousand three hundred eighty-four dollars (\$13,384)** for the fifth of five yearly payments for two defibrillators for the Northwood Fire Department, and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of said sum from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2017. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. **(Tax impact: \$0.00) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*This article authorizes the final payment of the Fire Department defibrillator lease. This is that fifth payment of the 5 year lease.*

**Article 7: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE DEPOSIT**

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 \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*This is an annual request to add funds to the capital reserve fund that is used to purchase large equipment/vehicles for the Highway Department (current balance is \$49,023). Yearly deposits to the fund provide an avenue of incremental funding for capital items resulting in reducing the impact to the taxpayer when large purchases are made.*

**Article 8: LAGOON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fourteen thousand seven hundred dollars (\$14,700)**, 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 13/0)**

*This article requests approval to deposit the 2017 user fees of the lagoon into the expendable trust fund set up for its operation and maintenance. The fund currently has a balance of \$86,811. It is used to pay for monitoring of septic volume, monitoring water quality in the surrounding area, DES permitting and reporting and is a reserve in case of catastrophic damage to the lagoon.*

**Article 9: RED LISTED BRIDGE ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred ninety eight thousand dollars (\$698,000) for the engineering and construction of Bridge Replacement on Bow Lake Road over Shelburne Brook and to fund this appropriation by withdrawing one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) from the Red listed Bridges Capital Reserve Fund, five hundred fifty eight thousand dollars (\$558,000) in Grant Revenue from NH Dot Bridge Aid Program. This is to be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7-A, and will not lapse **until the project is complete** or December 31 2020, whichever is sooner. **(Tax impact \$0.00) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*This is to authorize the use of funds already deposited in the Red Listed Bridge Capital Reserve for the purpose of construction and engineering of the Bow Lake Bridge, and for the use of funds from the Bridge Aid program to be accepted and expended within the purpose they will be given to the Town. Engineering phase and construction phase will begin in 2018.*

**Article 10: RED LISTED BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **eighty four thousand dollars (\$84,000)** to deposit into the fund. This is the third of three deposits. The fund was established in 2016 to support the replacement of failing bridges in Northwood. **(Tax Impact 0.18) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*The town has bridges on Bow Lake Rd. and Old Canterbury Rd. that have been deemed failing and in need of replacement by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. If the bridges close, school busses and residents will need to go around to Strafford to get to Coe Brown and into Northwood. Deposits to this capital reserve fund provide an avenue of incremental funding reducing the impact to the taxpayer. This is the third deposit to the fund. Current balance in the fund is \$ 169,352*

**Article 11: FACILITIES COMMITTEE EXPENDABLE TRUST DEPOSIT**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500)** 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 \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*The article requests an annual appropriation into the trust fund that is used to repair and maintain all of the town buildings. The committee has chosen to use this allocation in 2018 to paint the town hall, re-roof the small garage, re-roof the East End Fire station, paint Community Hall, and reconstruct the walkway at Chesley Memorial Library.*

**Article 12: 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: \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*To authorize a deposit into the previously established fund, to ensure that proper funding is available for the town's celebration of its founding anniversary!*

**Article 13: POLICE CRUISER PURCHASE**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty two thousand dollars (\$32,000)** for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new Police Cruiser. **(Tax impact \$0.07) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 0/14)**

*This article authorizes the purchase of a new police cruiser in 2018.*

**Article 14: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BACKHOE LEASE/PURCHASE**

To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a five year lease/purchase agreement for **one hundred ten thousand nine hundred dollars (\$110,900)** for the purpose of purchasing a backhoe for the Highway Department, to trade in the existing backhoe for fifteen thousand nine hundred (\$15,900) and to raise and appropriate an amount of twenty thousand (\$20,000) for the first year's lease payment. This will be the first of five payments. 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 13/2)**

*The highway backhoe is a 2000 model and is 16 years old. The town is requesting the purchase of a new backhoe and to trade the current one. This article authorizes that trade and authorizes the funding for a lease/purchase.*

**Article 15: 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: 0.22) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*The Highway Advisory Committee created a 7-year road assessment and maintenance plan. This expenditure will be used to reclaim, repave, crack seal, and maintain town roads. This is the fifth year for an annual request for additional funding for the maintenance plan.*

**Article 16: 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: less than .02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*This article represents the annual request for funds to support efforts to prevent invasive aquatic species from damaging our lakes. It assists in funding multiple Lake Host Programs that informs boaters, and monitors watercraft for signs of milfoil and other invasive species.*

**Article 17: 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: .03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

*This article represents the annual request for funds to support efforts to remove invasive aquatic species in our lakes.*

**Article 18: PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be deposited in the previously established Public Safety Complex Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing a Public Safety Complex. **(Tax impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 7/8)**

*This article authorizes an annual payment into the previously established safety complex capital reserve.*

**Article 19: NORTHWOOD NARROWS FIRE STATION EXPANSION**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000)** for the Northwood Narrows Fire Station Expansion. **(Tax impact: \$0.44) (Majority vote**

**required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/1)**

*This article will authorize the selectmen to contract out the building of a new expansion on the Narrows Fire Station. This addition is to include a male and a female bunk room for the overnight duty crews. It will also include a male and a female restroom with appropriate showers. Currently the duty crews are housed at the Ridge station, which does not have proper accommodations. The Fire Department does not have proper shower rooms for decontamination after a fire scene where staff can get cleaned up after a fire call without bringing it into their homes. If this warrant passes, the housing for the overnight crew shall be moved to the Narrows station, the Ridge station will still be used as a daytime station and command center for Emergency Management.*

**Article 20: BACKSTOP FOR BASEBALL DIAMOND**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500)** to install the backstop and dugout fences at the new baseball diamond. **(Tax impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/1)**

*This article will authorize the purchase and installation of a backstop and dug out fences for the new baseball diamond.*

**Article 21: EXPAND NORTHWOOD BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO 5 MEMBERS**

To see if the town will vote in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen to 5 members per RSA 41:8-b. **(No Tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Petition warrant article)**

**Article 22: OTHER BUSINESS**

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

## 2018 PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS

**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 definition of a Large Scale Business to include all businesses larger than 10,000 sq. ft.?**  
*The proposed change would eliminate a discrepancy between the definition of a Large Scale Business and the application of that term when calculating setbacks as illustrated in Table IV-3*

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

**Delete all existing references to a Service Station Price Sign for consistency with the content-neutral Sign Regulations adopted in 2017?**

*The proposed changes would eliminate the definition of a Service Station Price Sign and all instances of its usage. The definition of a Service Station Price Sign is explicitly content-based. The Development Ordinance was updated in 2017 to remove content-based regulation of signage in accordance with the provisions of Reed v. Town of Gilbert. However, the changes were focused in Section VIII. Sign Regulations, and do not appear to have extended to the definitions section.*

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

**Amend the definition of a Structure to include a cross-reference to Section IV.B.(4)(c) regarding setback exemptions for certain types of structures?**

*Several of the structure types explicitly mentioned in this definition (e.g. fences, stone walls, and driveways) are exempt from one or more setback requirements. The proposed change would add a cross-reference directing readers to the exemption section. This amendment would not alter the definition of a structure in any way.*

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

**Amend Section VI.C. Agricultural Soils Overlay District to update its Purpose Statement to remove the statement that agriculture is not an important economic factor in Northwood?**

*Purpose statements are used to justify provisions of code and illustrate how regulations support the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. This phrase does not contribute to that justification, and could be seen to weaken it by introducing a contradicting idea. Agriculture is a permitted use in Northwood, and changing trends in the nature and scale of agricultural activities makes it increasingly likely that meaningful agricultural activity occurs and will continue to occur in Northwood.*

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

**Add Section IV.B.(7) Lot Coverage to limit the amount of lot coverage by low permeability surfaces to 40% on residential and mixed use lots and 50% on non-residential lots?**

*Currently Northwood regulates lot coverage with low-permeability surfaces in its Site Plan Review Regulations. These regulations define Low Permeability Surfaces as "surfaces which do not allow fluids to pass readily through them (e.g. pavement, concrete, roofs, etc.)." Site plan regulations apply only to development requiring site review (primarily non-residential or multi-unit residential development) and could not be used to regulate lot coverage on single-unit residential lots and would have particular implications for future development of undersized lots.*